AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

CA. 8267 C-257 L.T. 11-16-37
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WALNUT CREEK, CALIF.

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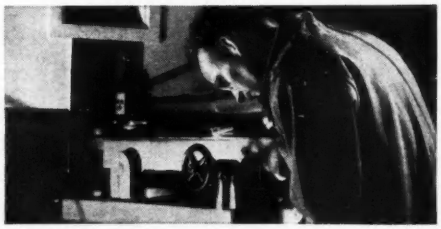
That's why you'll find Peters match ammunition first choice on more and more pistol and rifle ranges. Peters cartridges are precision-made, precision-tested. Throughout each step on the production line, Peters experts check bullets, cases, powder and primer to *micro-close tolerances.* Before each lot is shipped, these same experts test-fire samples to make sure these fine cartridges meet Peters high standards of *reliable accuracy.* The result: from box to box, case to case, Peters match cartridges are *alike* to an amazingly fine degree . . . give you a head start on *more high scores!*

There's only one way to prove to yourself just how accurate Peters match ammunition can be. Next time you go shooting, try Peters "Police Match". . . Peters "Dewar Match". . . or Peters "Target" cartridges. You'll agree: *there's no more accurate rim fire ammunition in the world!*



HE LOOKS FOR TROUBLE. Peters technician squeezes trigger of target rifle in machine rest, testing accuracy of Peters match 22's. Samples from each lot must pass critical tests. Groups must fall within extremely rigid tolerances.

THE PROOF is on the target on the Peters ballistics range. Many a group made on this range at 100 yards from machine-rest rifles is the size of a 25¢ piece!

PETERS

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PETERS CARTRIDGE DIVISION — *Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.—"Dewar Match" and "Target" are Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.—"Police Match" is a trademark of Peters Cartridge Division.*

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MEN'S PISTOL CHAMPION

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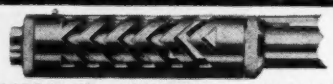
SHOT CONTROL



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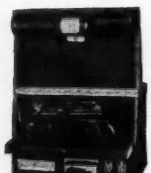

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AMERICAN RIFLEMAN

The Rifle 1885-1888
Shooting and Fishing 1888-1906
Arms and the Man 1906-1923

Official Journal of the NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERI
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Vol. 96, No. 6 • June 19

All To The Good — an Editorial

Eyesight — by Colonel A. M. Libasci
An Army MD discusses eye problems with the targeteer in mind

Bill the Barrelmaker — by Rex Stanley and Allen C. Reed
A step-by-step picture story of precision rifle-barrel manufacture

Third NRA Convention

Colt Brevete — by John E. Parsons
Newly unearthed facts on Belgian imitations of Colt six-shooters

Pennsylvania Gunsmith School — by M. D. Waite
A supplement to the recently-published report on gunsmithing schools

All-Time Rifle Champ — by Major Charles Askins, Jr.
Buffalo Bill and Annie Oakley were great, but there was one greater

Primer for Pistoleers — by Charles F. Waterman
How to win (or lose) pistol matches like an expert

Paging the 6.5 — by Elmer Keith
If there's such a thing as an all-purpose rifle, this one's it

Variety is the Spice — by Colonel Charles F. Densford
Are our pistol matches becoming so dull they are losing customers?

Loads for the .375 — by Barr and White
Another in the Rifleman's series on loads for favorite cartridges

Change Skeet? Why Not! — by F. A. Dominy
Skeet has come a long way (and changed a lot) since it was 'invented'

Legislative Bulletin
A final summing-up of the antigun law situation as of presstime

Spotting Scope

COVER

Barrelman Bill Sukalle was photographed as he operated the elaborate four-tool contour-turning lathe in his Phoenix shop. For more on Sukalle and his rifle barrels, turn to page 14. The cover photo was taken by Allen C. Reed.

Published monthly by the National Rifle Association of America, 1600 Rhode Island Avenu Washington 6, D. C. Domestic Rates (North, South, and Central America) $4.00 a year, $7. for two years, $10.00 for three years; elsewhere add $.60 per year for foreign postag Entered as second-class matter, April 1, 1908, at the post office at Washington, D. C., und act of March 3, 1879. Copyright, 1950, National Rifle Association of America. All rights re served. For change of address, give both new and old address as the latter appears o address label. Not responsible for loss or damage to unsolicited manuscripts or photo

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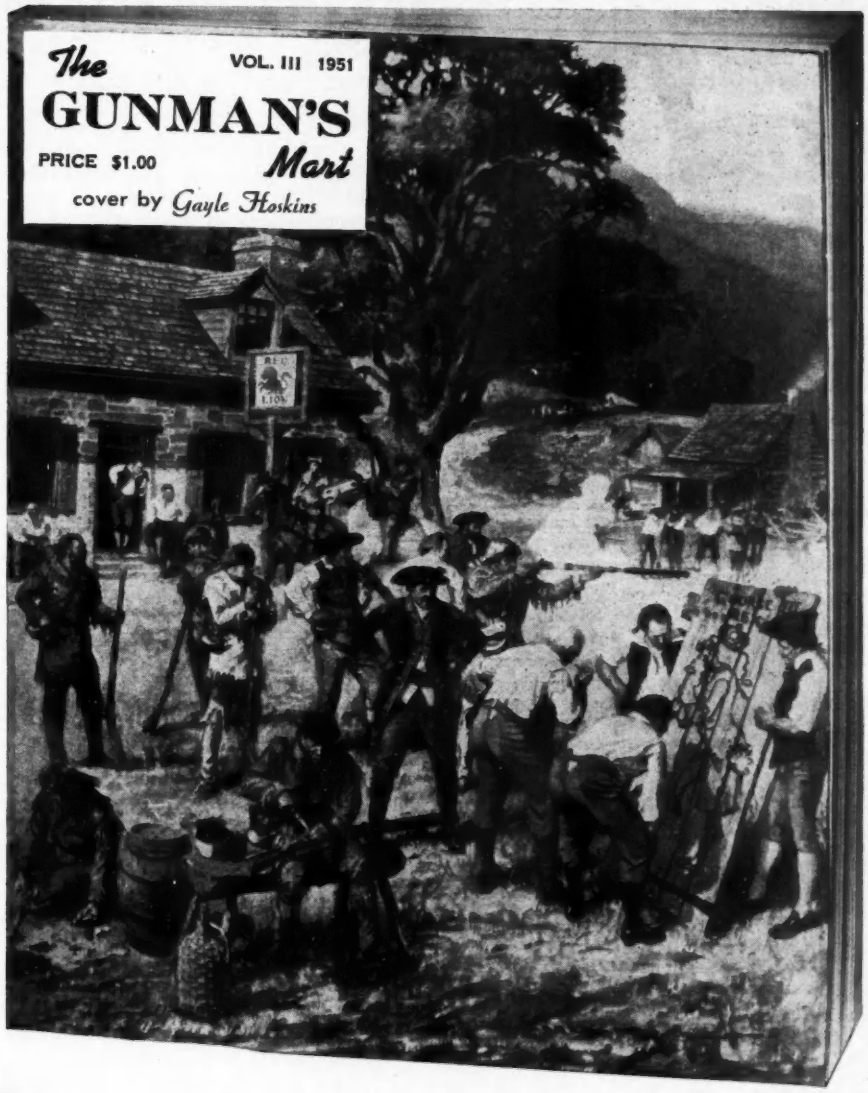

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Beautiful Gunlover's Cover By Gayle Hoskins*

The Only Strictly Exclusive Gunnut, Gunlover, Gunsmith, Gun-Hobbyist Catalogue of Its Size and Type in the World Today. A Catalogue FOR Men Who Love Guns BY Men Who Love Guns.

If you own one gun or a hundred and like to hunt, shoot, load your own, work on them or tinker—or just read—you'll find The Mart a veritable encyclopedia of valuable information and a ready source of supply. There are over 200 Brand New pages in this year's book: Browning & Z-B guns, loading tools & components, Ivory, ebony, India Horn, Bullets, New Scopes, new tools, new equipment, Woods Arctic Hunting supplies, new holsters & cases, Plus all the popular tools and supplies we carried last year—and many more ! !

For men who work on guns there are new checkering tools & Chisels, 48 pages of valuable gun blue-prints of assemblies, springs, parts, etc., etc. All New books and popular old ones; fifteen pages on bluing and polishing; Barrel vises, new work vises and holding fixtures, checkering cradel and a new checkering tool that approaches the art of hand checkering from an entirely new angle. We've gotten the best of everything for you this year, we think, and as with last year's Mart you'll find the new one a good daily companion.

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with semi-free floating barrel and new, adjustable hand stop

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ONLY
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west of Rockies
(Rifle only)

Scope mounted is Mossberg 4-power Model No. 4M4
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26" heavy barrel, 13/16" round
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Length 43"
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Chambered for .22 cal. Long Rifle, Regular or high speed. Will also handle Longs and Shorts.

Ask your dealer to show you the new Mossberg #144.

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InCidenTa/Ly

ABOUT THE TWENTIETH of this month the RIFLEMAN is going to have a baby brother. The new publication, which will be available only to target shooters, is to be called 'NRA Tournament News', will be made up in tabloid newspaper style, and will appear once each month throughout the year.

The appearance of the Association's new publication is an acknowledgment of a situation which has existed for some time. Before the war, when the NRA's membership consisted of about 60,000 people, the major emphasis was on the target shooter. His was THE sport. Tournament competition was looked upon as the backbone of the NRA and the RIFLEMAN catered to the target shooter in considerable detail.

In those days there wasn't much talk of muzzleloader matches, or bench-rest shooters, or people who were interested in ballistics. Reloading was the sport of an initiated few, and rare indeed was the man who had a gunsmithing shop in his basement. The gun collector had not come into his present prominence, nor did the wildcatter turn out quite so many of his superpooper-.22-necked-down-from-a-40-millimeter-anti-aircraft specials. Looking back on those halcyon days, it must have been a simple, uncomplicated world.

Came the war. One of the first casualties was Camp Perry, with its open-to-everyone, three-ring-circus national target-shooting championships. Suspended early in World War II, the Perry matches were put on the permanent retired list with the diversion of much of the Perry range to other uses. It was plain that, with the loss of Perry's two-mile firing line, target shooting would no longer be able to hold its championships on a come-one, come-all basis. Target shooting had to go back to the grassroots and, like other sports, build up from a broad base of local shoots, state events, regional championships and, on a limited basis, national championship tournaments.

With the end of the war, and the return home of millions of gun-wise soldiers, an even greater change took place. Shooting in America started to 'go over' in a big way. Membership in the NRA climbed steadily. By Spring of 1946, 100,000 Americans were wearing NRA membership pins . . . and reading the RIFLEMAN. Two years later, that figure had trebled. Today, after hitting a peak of better than 300,000 the Association has levelled off to a total membership of about 275,000.

The NRA was quick to learn that its postwar membership did not consist of a quarter-million *target* shooters. There are, of course, more target shooters than ever before (although not a proportional increase). The big increase has been among those specialized groups which before the war had been neither large nor particularly vocal. Gradually, as we learned about these new interests we broadened the scope of the RIFLEMAN until, as it is today, each issue attempts to cover about a dozen divergent interests within the field. The net result is that no one subject can longer dominate the RIFLEMAN.

Obviously, that answer does not please the dyed-in-the-wool target shooter. He wants a publication which will feature scores, names, dates, weather conditions . . . all of the specialized information which makes target shooting his sport. We'd be the last to deny the target shooter his rightful (and prominent) place in NRA plans. He *is* the backbone of organized shooting in America, and hence, the backbone of the Association. All of which explains the appearance of the NRA Tournament News about the twentieth of this month. It will feature the sort of news target shooters want: scores, match conditions, names, incidents, as well as provocative discussions of 'the state of the game.'

It will be distributed free, as an added Association service, to all registered tournament competitors—rifle, pistol, and .30 caliber—and to all club secretaries. Watch for it, support it by sending its editors the details of your tournament . . . and let us know what you think of it.

JS

RIFLEMAN WORDS • • • •

A lexicon for shooters which defines words and terms used in articles more fully than is possible by their use in text.

FRAME—The heavy forging on a revolver which consists of the metal portions of the grip, the section for the lock-work, the support of the cylinder, together with the section for insertion of the barrel in swing-out cylinder and solid frame revolvers.

LOADING GATE—A hinged segment of the standing breech which is found only on revolvers having a cylinder which does not swing away from the standing breech for loading.

METAL-PATCHED BULLET — A bullet having a metal cup which extends over the base and forward over that portion which bears against the rifling, the lead core being exposed at the nose of the bullet. The term originated when thin metal was substituted for the parchment-paper patches first used on lead bullets to protect the base from the heat of heavy charges of black or early smokeless powder.

MONTE CARLO COMB—A raised comb on a rifle stock which permits greater ease in shouldering the weapon and in sighting, bringing the eye up to the line of sight.

PATCH—With muzzleloading rifles, a piece of leather, cloth, or paper, usually greased and placed over the muzzle of the rifle under the bullet so that it practically encases the ball as the latter is rammed into the rifle.

PROOF HOUSE—A place for test firing guns with loads developing greater-than-normal pressures to insure that the weapons will withstand normal usage without danger of bursting. In Europe, this work is done by the government and the barrel of the arm is stamped to indicate that it has been proof tested. The method of proof firing the 1903 Springfield is to fire one cartridge which develops 68,000 pounds pressure and follow it with five standard service loads.

RECOIL SHIELD—In revolvers, the flanges on the standing breech just behind the cylinder face. Recoil shields prevent cartridges from moving back far enough out of the chambers to interfere with the revolution of the cylinder.

RIMFIRE CARTRIDGE — A cartridge in which the priming mixture is inserted inside the rim at the head of the case. When the firing pin strikes the rim of the cartridge at any point on its circumference, the primer is exploded and the powder ignited.

TARGET CARRIER—A pulley and rope device with which a target is moved back and forth between the shooter and the backstop. This arrangement makes it unnecessary for the firer to walk to the backstop to examine or change a target.

TOP WAD—The circular wad of compressed paper at the crimped end of a shotgun shell, which wad holds the shot inside the case.

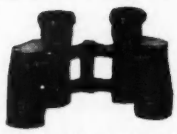
20 DAYS FREE TRIAL!

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE !

6 POWER MILITARY TYPE COATED POCKET PRISM BINOCULAR

Weighs only 4 ounces! Field of view of 370 feet at 1000 yards. Individual eye focussing. Superb craftsmanship. Comes complete with fine leather case and straps. $19.50 plus Federal tax. For same day AIRMAIL shipment add $1.00.

6 POWER FEATHERWEIGHT MILITARY STYLE



Sturdily made yet feather light (14 ounces) 8 degree field! Adjustable for all eye widths. Bargain price includes plush lined leather case and straps. 6 x 25, $26.00 plus Federal tax. 6 x 30 $31.50.

6 X 30 COATED—$34.50

8 x 30 MILITARY TYPE

Has exceptionally large oculars providing brilliant illumination. Moisture and dust proofed. Weighs 18 oz. Comes with quality leather case and straps. $33.00 plus Federal tax. 8x30 Coated $39.50.

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Center focussing. Combines 7 Power with lightweight body. Military Type. Moisture, dust proofed. Center focussing for instant vision. JUST RECEIVED! $49.50 plus tax. 7x40 Coated Optics $52.50.

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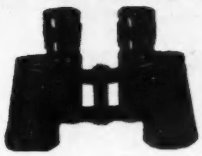
Full 8 power, yet with 40 mm. lenses make it a POWERFUL and COMPACT glass. Coated for extra sharp images. Moisture, dust proofed with standard optics $46.50. Coated model $49.50 plus tax.



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Assembled to rigid U. S. Army specifications. All purpose M3 model. Weighs 18 oz. Waterproofed. Coated optics. Economy priced. With case $55.95 plus tax.

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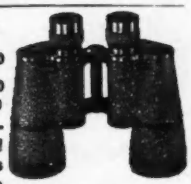

Military Type — Achromatic Lense! Powerful. Glasses have individual eye focussing. Beautiful plush lined leather case and straps included. Add Federal tax.

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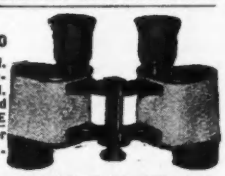

Sturdily constructed. Genuine brass tubings, leather covered. Fully reconditioned and refinished. LIKE NEW. New leather cases. SUPPLY LIMITED.

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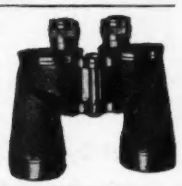

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WOLLENSAK 15 to 40 Power VARIABLE TELESCOPE. Instant focussing at any power from 15 to 40. Lightweight. Weighs only 16 oz. Chrome tubes. Length 27". Leather Case. Shows 22 bullet hole sharply at 300 feet. $27.50 tax included.

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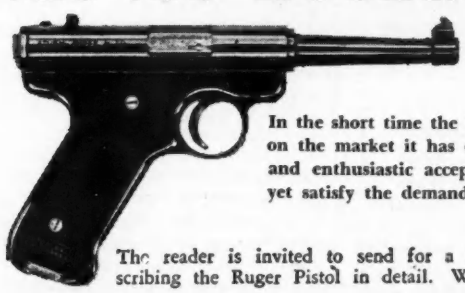
the .22 RUGER pistol



In the short time the RUGER pistol has been on the market it has enjoyed such immediate and enthusiastic acceptance that we can not yet satisfy the demand . . . $37.50

The reader is invited to send for a free leaflet describing the Ruger Pistol in detail. Write Dept. AE

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new *Safe* way to store guns

PREVENTS RUST OR CORROSION

READ WHAT THE N.R.A. STAFF SAYS

Al Barr (N.R.A. Tech. Div.) **says:**

"There is no doubt that when a gun is cleaned as it should be and then placed in one of the Rust-Pruf Gun Pouches it will stay in good condition *indefinitely.*"

Gen. Hatcher (Director, N.R.A. Tech. Div.) **says:**

"I've made some comparative tests on pieces of metal, polished bright and placed in these pouches with the chemical element as against others placed in pouches without the chemical element. The ones that did not have the chemical element have rusted; those that had the chemical element have not rusted to date, even though one of these was left outside in the weather and water managed to seep into the pouch. In spite of the fact that water has been in the pouch, the piece with your chemical element has not yet rusted."

$1. ea.

Rust-Pruf Gun Pouches

are transparent plastic pouches containing a "chemical element," a war-time discovery which *positively* prevents rust or corrosion on all metals.

Pouch is tough, oil . . . grease . . . water . . . flame . . . dust proof. Weather changes do not affect it; special plastic won't crack or become brittle in desert heat or deep-freeze cold. Lasts for years with reasonable care. Size 10" wide, 53" long—large enough for any shotgun or rifle, even with scope and sling. "Chemical element" lasts a full year. Replacements only 25¢. Written guarantee and complete directions.

Use Rust-Pruf Gun Pouches for storing guns or tools safe from rust, etc. The chemical element in the pouch prevents rust by slowly vaporizing. This neutralizes moisture or corrosive gases. The pouch prevents oil or grease on guns from staining walls or clothing in closets. It also keeps out dust, moisture, fingerprints, etc.

DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

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Yes, I want to store guns, etc., without danger of rust or corrosion. Rush me_____Rust-Pruf Gun Pouches. Price: $1.00 ea. . . 6 for $5.00 postage and tax paid. (Send cash, check or money order.) Money back guarantee: return in 10 days if not satisfied in every way.

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Ricochets . . .

SECOND AMENDMENT

Mosinee, Wisconsin

Editor:

The article "Pick Up Your Pen" (Rifleman, March) has prompted me to do just that. As an ardent rifle shooter and firm believer in our right 'to keep and bear arms', I am deeply concerned over the rising tide of antifirearms laws. There are so few shooters compared to the total population that unless they get together and put up some stiff opposition I, personally, am afraid that they are going to lose their right to own guns. Few shooters realize what dangers are ahead, and of those who do only a small percentage will do anything about it. The Rifleman is really doing a grand job in informing its members of proposed antifirearms laws, but as the above article brought out it does not reach the general public, and it is the general public that the shooting fraternity must educate.

Would it be possible to have some of your excellent Riflemen editorials published in some of the leading newspapers? I think the effect in getting the public to see things our way would be a big help.

Concerning the Second Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, does it actually guarantee the individual citizen the "right to keep and bear arms"? C. N. Davis

● *Whenever you see an editorial in The American Rifleman which you would like to have reprinted in your local papers, just take it down to the editor and tell him you think he should re-publish it. The* Rifleman *extends full permission to reprint all or part of its editorials to local newspaper editors. During the course of the year a great many of these editorials are reprinted in newspapers and house organs throughout the United States.*

The Second Amendment is a part of the so-called Bill of Rights which is composed of the first ten constitutional amendments. The Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled that these amendments restrict the right of the Federal Congress to control the state legislatures but do not restrict the right of each state legislature to enact such laws as the people of that state may desire. In other words, the Second Amendment is no guarantee against the passage of antigun laws by state legislatures.—Ed.

NRA OR MAGAZINE?

Miami, Florida

Editor:

I would like to correct E. A. Frank (Ricochets, May 1950). He is not lapsing his subscription to The American Rifleman, he is dropping his membership in the National Rifle Association. Mr. Frank undoubtedly has one or more guns of his own. I wonder if he would have them today if it were not for the untiring efforts of the NRA and others in fighting antigun legislation.

I have always looked at my issues of the Rifleman as a gift—one of the many I have enjoyed since joining the NRA. I send my $4.00 each year to do my small part in helping to keep up this good work. Magazine or no magazine, I have no intention of "lapsing" my membership in the NRA.

George H. Reaburn

CS and CS (Continued)

Seldovia, Alaska

Editor:

This belated ricochet to your April iss is due largely to the time it takes for ma zines to get up here. But I want to co mend you for publishing Douglas Faulkn "Common Sense and Case Shape" (Rif man, April).

William Wakeland

Delano, California

Editor:

I am not usually addicted to writing hoor or criticisms to the other man's articles a presume that he must know his stuff or would not be willing to have it put in pr but since I am a member of the Rifle I do want to have my weight felt and here extend my congratulations to one Douglas Faulkner for his excellent article "Comm Sense and Case Shape". His closing par graph, in my opinion, sums up one hundr years of advice and experience of all t famous names like Winchester, Marlin, Se age, Remington, and others who have be striving for over-the-counter accuracy and a around dependability for plain John Smith.

A. L. Ellis

%!&#!?*?! CROSSBOWS

Wiesbaden, Germany

Editor:

There are times when I wish I had som thing to sell. Ever since you published m note about gun clubs in Germany (Rifle man, October 1949, page 6), I've been ge ting 'orders' for those dam' crossbows! I ge together a batch of the maker's leaflets an passed them out with the dope on the curre price situation and advice to check on cu toms restrictions and duty before ordering.

For your information, the manufacturer one Herr Ferdinand Gareissen of No. Morassistrasse, Munich, Bavaria. I'm out his leaflets, but I'm sure from his letter th he will be glad to furnish prospective pu chasers with all necessary data on his pro ucts. Not that I object at all to receivi letters from gun bugs at home, but you m be able to expedite inquiries by direct rep I know that there is nothing so itching as t long wait for the postman when you've go gun letter in the mail!

Ward R. Betz

● *Before sending that order to German wait for the August and September issues the Rifleman. They will include detailed ar cles on the making of a crossbow.—Ed.*

GUNSMITHING SCHOOL

Susanville, California

Editor:

It may interest you to know (although have an idea it will be no great surprise) th since the March issue of the Rifleman ca out we have been swamped with applicat for admission from, literally, all over the ma When I checked last, 272 applicants had bee received from thirty-four states and fro British Columbia, Hawaii, Canal Zone, Oki nawa, and Trans-Jordan!

About two-thirds of these applications ar from veterans, including twenty-five or thir from men and officers still on active duty wh wish to get their names on our accepted l

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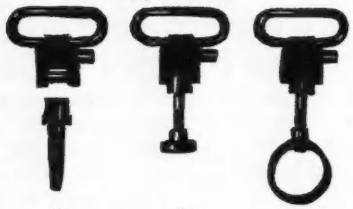

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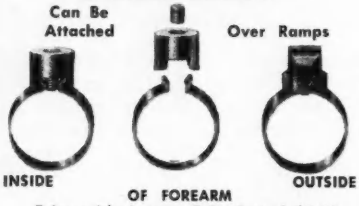

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for the fall following the end of their to
of active duty in the summer of 1950, 19
or 1952.

Among these men still in the service i
Lieutenant-Commander. Another is a C
onel of Infantry, on active duty but due
revert to his permanent rank in a couple
months. Still others: a captain in the
Force slated for retirement next month, a
a captain of airborne infantry.

Another result of the RIFLEMAN story
been a flood of inquiries from all sorts
sporting goods, hardware, and gun stores
gunsmiths. And all of the fellows who w
jobs either for the summer vacation or
manently have been signed up for the
month.

An interesting feature about the appli
tions coming in is the fact that next to C
fornia the greatest number at this time
from Pennsylvania.

C. W. FROST,
Director, Gunsmithing Divis
Lassen Junior College

● *Information on a gunsmithing school
Pittsburgh, Penna.—admission requirem
fees, books and tools, quarters—may be fou
on page 27 of this issue.—Ed.*

MAY COVER

Washington, D. C.

Editor:

My sincere commendation to John Lehm
for superior photography, aided and abet
by a skillful plate-maker, and to the edi
who is responsible for the May cover!
know the subject only by sight and readi
but think this cover is an especially app
priate recognition of a Very Important P
son in the world of riflemen.

With probably a majority of other me
bers, I encounter much in every issue of t
RIFLEMAN that is incomprehensive (sic) a
no earthly use to me. But what a dull pi
of journalism the RIFLEMAN would be
otherwise. I find need of a little substance
satisfy a desire, common to enthusiasts,
learn and a little substance of another l
for dreams—such as that by Don Hopkins
which JS proffers needless justification.

HENRY STEVENS

FARROW RIFLE

Chicago, Illinoi

Editor:

I've just read and very much enjoyed B
sotti's piece on Niedner. But what I
writing about is to call your attention to
minor error; Barsotti has Niedner describ
the Farrow rifle as having been made w
16-groove barrels and also as being "an
provement of the old Bullard rifle". W
so far as can be learned, no 16-groove ban
of Farrow make exist, but 14-groove ban
were made and so advertised in a 4-p
Farrow Arms Company circular, circa 18
As to the latter point, certainly the Farr
action bears no slightest resemblance to
Bullard, either single shot or repeater.
tually, it was an outgrowth (or eke "stea
of the Brown rifle, which had been handma
in one small lot for the 1883 Internatio
Team. . . .

Much ado about nothing? Well, may
but I'm thinking of the guy who will,
years to come, go to the then old files of t
AR and learn things that ain't so. So, in t
interests of pure accuracy. . . .

JOHN T. AMBER

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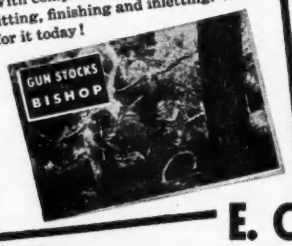

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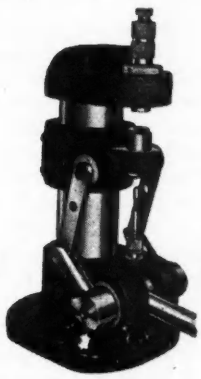

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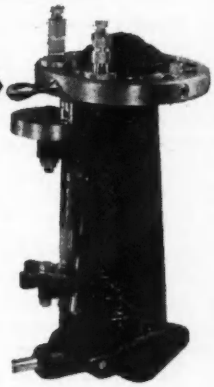

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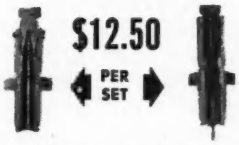

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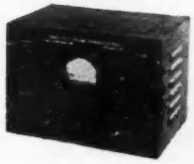

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HOLLYWOOD GUN SHOP

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All To the Good . . .

With the coming of June competitive shooters are moving full tilt into the most active outdoor shooting season in American history. They will find more good smallbore and pistol ranges, more tournaments, and more members of the clan than ever before. The .30-caliber game, bedeviled with the loss of ranges because of urban and industrial development coupled with high cost ammunition, is nevertheless headed for the most active season in many years.

Rules committees composed of active shooters have, after two years of discussion and argument, produced their versions of modernized regulations. Already the "cussin' and discussin'" is on its way between relays on firing lines from Florida to Washington. Some committee members are a bit surprised to learn that it is easier to make a hit on a target than to make a hit with the mixed array of citizens who are their fellow competitors!

Yes, between now and the first snowfall there will be plenty of good fellowship, plenty of alibis, plenty of heated discussion about rules, programs and range-officers' decisions—all of which will add up to a great season for shooters. But these are serious times. Behind the fun of competitive shooting the rifleman and pistoleer knows that there lies the grim purpose of providing protection against enemies within and without our borders. Already plans for the revival of the war-time auxiliary police organizations are being discussed in some communities. Before long plans must be made by the military for the organization and training of efficient home guard units to supplement the widely scattered internal security units of the Armed Forces. This bustling summer it is as important as it was in the carefree summer of 1940 that every teen-age boy be taught the fundamentals of small-arms operation and marksmanship and the principles of intelligent group discipline.

This summer to a greater degree than ever before the 'heat is on' to secure that registration by the state of all personally-owned firearms which is an essential prelude to the successful accomplishment of the program to abolish the dignity of the individual and make of him another serial number as a prisoner of the state. Nor should it be forgotten that as the Red Tide moved over Europe it abolished those shooting clubs it could not control. There are those in America and in Moscow this summer who look with fear on our civilian rifle club movement and who have on their program of unfinished business the infiltration or abolishment of those clubs and the breaking up of the National Rifle Association if they cannot control it.

Far more than the average citizen the organized rifleman and pistoleer has always been alive to the needs of national security and conscious of his personal responsibilities toward the national defense. More than any other segment of our population the members of the NRA were prepared in the summer of 1941 for the grim business that came in December. So this summer, wherever shooters gather, there will be more serious things discussed than rules and records. There will be as much talk of training schools as of tournaments. There will be much sound thinking and less sounding off.

All of which will be for the good of the game and for the good of America.

C B Lister

EYE SIGHT

Part 1

The twin optical instruments we call eyes are our most valuable possessions. Understanding them is half the battle of keeping them in good condition

By A. M. Libasci, MD

MAN'S MOST PRIZED possession is his eyesight. Marvelously designed eyes have made possible our present civilization. No other organ of the body is more ideally adapted to its function than is the eye. Consider the miracle of our ability to see objects exactly as they are in the outside world!

In spite of the wondrous capabilities of our eyes the prevalence of faulty vision is extremely high. In our work-world 23 percent of those under 20 years of age have defective vision! As we grow older the percentage climbs: 39 percent of those 20 to 30 years old; 48 percent of those 30 to 40 years old; 71 percent of those 40 to 50 years old; 82 percent of those between 50 and 60 years.

Nature designed our eyes for use outdoors. Eye troubles began when man came indoors where the light is relatively poor, and where he began to concentrate on prolonged tasks requiring near-vision.

No other sport is as closely identified with keen vision as is shooting. It is a popular but fallacious belief that expert shooters have better eyes than other people. It is true that no group of sportsmen becomes more concerned with visual problems than do shooters. Sooner or later, and as certain as death and taxes, each shooter is faced with the alarming discovery that something is happening to his eyes. At this stage some, in ignorance of the nature of their trouble, quit their beloved hobby. "My eyes went bad, so I quit shooting!"

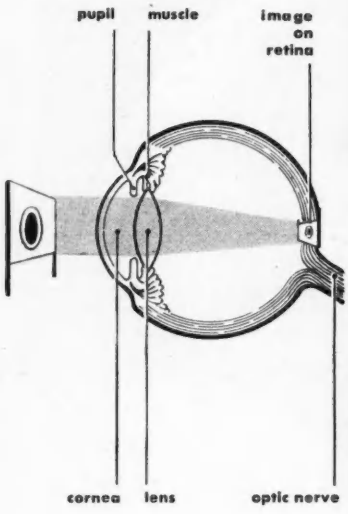
A basic understanding of one's eyes can prevent this. Knowledge of the construction, functioning, and care of the eyes is certainly less difficult to obtain than many of the technical aspects of ballistics or handloading. Every shooter should be vitally interested in acquiring this knowledge if he is to enjoy his hobby past middle age.

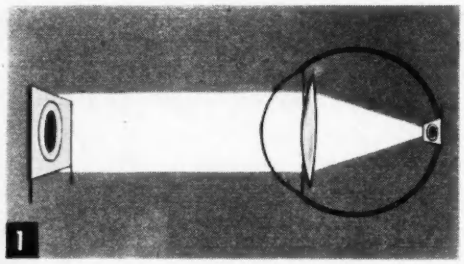
The eye is an optical instrument. Like a camera, it has a lens and an adjustable pupil or diaphragm. Like a camera, the eye admits a beam of light through an adjustable opening (the pupil), and focuses it by means of a lens upon a sensitive surface (the retina).

The first illustration on page 12 shows how the eye 'sees' an object—in this case a target. Rays of light reflected from the target pass through the transparent protective cover of the eye (the cornea), through the pupil, and are then bent or refracted by the lens of the eye to an accurate focus on the sensitive retina as an inverted image. Sensitive cells then transmit this image through the optic nerve to the visual center of the brain. There, images from each eye are focused to form one distinct perception. This mechanism we call sight.

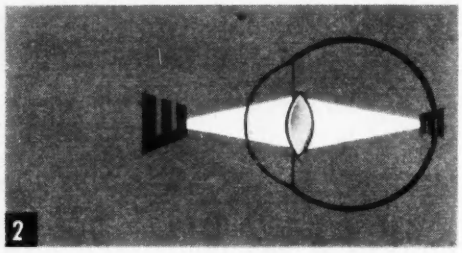
The eye differs from the camera in two aspects: 1) The pupil of the eye, unlike the diaphragm of a camera, works automatically in regulating the amount of light that enters the eye. The pupil grows larger in dim or dark surroundings and becomes smaller in bright light. 2) The eye changes its focus for objects at different distances by changing the power of its lens. It does this by changing the thickness or curvature of the lens, and not like the camera by changing the distance between lens and film. These mechanisms are extremely important for the shooter to understand.

In optics, light rays originating from a point 20 feet or more away are considered as being parallel when they enter the eye. Rays originating closer than 20 feet enter as divergent rays.

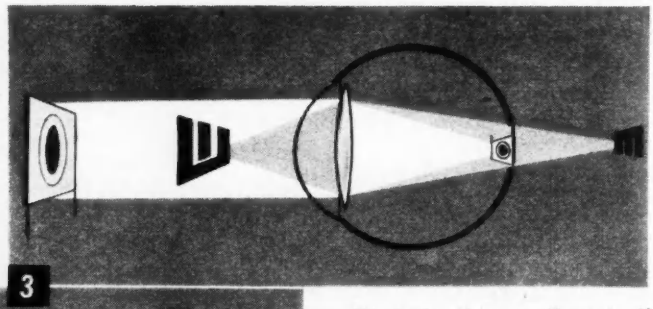




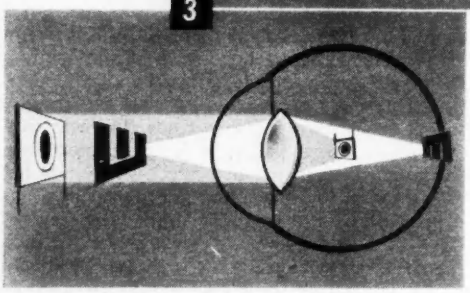
This is how the normal eye sees a distant object. Parallel light rays go through relaxed lens, which 'projects' correctly focussed image on rear surface (retina) of eye



To focus divergent rays from nearby object (pistol sights) eye muscles thicken lens so that light rays are brought to proper focus. Image actually is wrong side up in eye



This is the 'shooter's dilemma'. If eye focusses so that image of target is clear and sharp, then divergent rays from sights come to focus back of eyeball to give out-of-focus sights

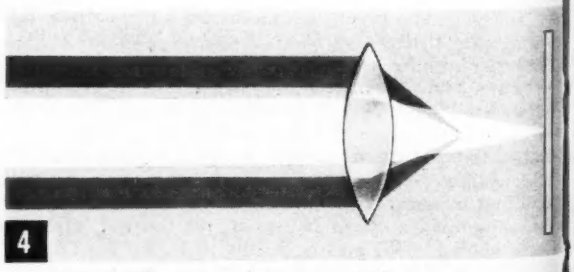


Reversing that picture, this eye is focussing on sights. Light rays from target form fuzzy, out-of-focus image of target ahead of retina

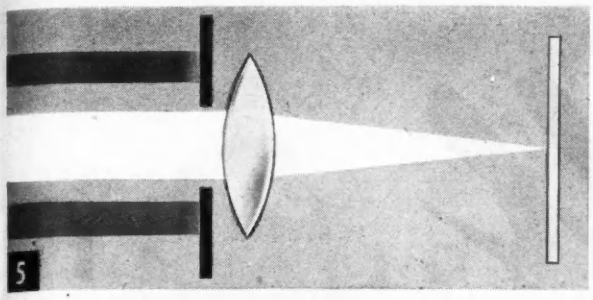
In Figure 1 is shown how the norma eye focuses for far objects (paralle rays) and in Figure 2 for near object (divergent rays). Note that the le of a normal eye focused for a 'distan object is completely relaxed. For near object the lens changes its focu by becoming thicker and more curved This automatic change of focus b change of lens power is called 'accom modation'. The degree of accommod tion, that is, the change of lens curv ture, must vary for every distance of th object. Neither your camera nor you eye can adapt itself for two differen distances at the same time! All shoo ers, please note well!

In Figure 3 is shown what I call 'th shooters' dilemma'; the impossibility bringing the target and sights into focu at the same time. At the top th shooter's eye is focusing on the target Parallel rays from the target pas through a completely relaxed lens t focus on the retina. However, whil this is going on, divergent rays from th sights, which are only a few feet awa pass through the relaxed, non-accom modated lens, are not bent enough an focus on a point *behind* the retina, giv ing a blurred or indistinct sight picture Below this, the shooter is focusing o the sights. The lens has accommodate by thickening and a clear focus of th sight on the retina results. Meanwhile however, the parallel rays from the tar get passing through the too-thick len are bent too sharply and focus *in fron* of the retina, giving a blurred image

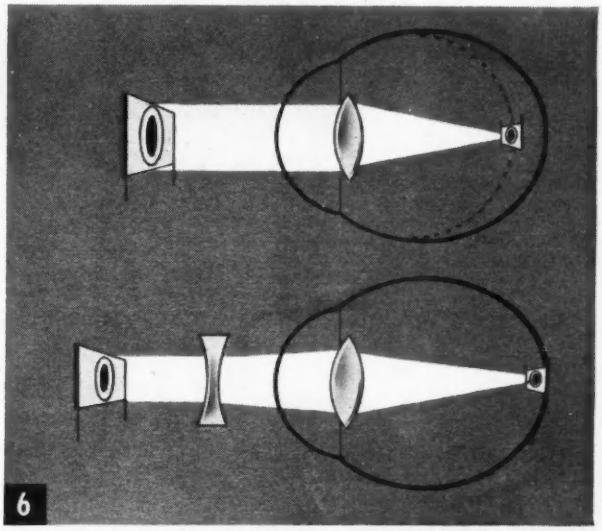
If the eye cannot focus on two object at different distances at once, how is i going to see both target (at 50 yards say) and sights (at arm's length clearly? Which one should we loo at? Actually, an automatic mechanism takes care of the problem. In a young elastic eye the focus shifts rapidly, go ing from target to sights to target s rapidly that we may not even be con scious of it. This mechanism is no without cost to us, however. Even i



All single-lens systems, including our eyes, are subject to a difficulty called 'spherical aberration'. Here light rays entering center of eye lens come to correct focus on retina. Rays coming through edge of lens, however, focus ahead of retina, resulting in poor definition and clarity



Cure for spherical aberration is simple. A diaphragm (peep hole) prevents entrance of rays through edge of lens. Rays through center come to proper focus. This is why camera gives greater depth of focus when the lens is 'stopped down'



Nearsightedness (myopia) is caused by eye that is too long. Parallel rays come to focus ahead of retina. Cure is use of a concave spectacle lens to bend rays before they enter eye

a young eye that rapid play of the ciliary muscle and the resulting back-and-forth movement of the eye lens introduces fatigue. Your eye, like anything else, gets tired. As we grow older the lens begins to lose its elasticity and the power of accommodation or near-vision focus becomes weaker and weaker. This is a gradual process, commencing usually when we are between 42 and 45 years of age. This condition is called presbyopia ('old sight') and will be further discussed later.

The pistol shooter is definitely the goat of the situation. There he is, trying to focus his shooting eye on a rear sight at about two feet from his eye, a front sight at 2½ feet, and a target at twenty-five or fifty yards. The rifleman has it a bit better. If he uses an aperture or peep sight, he can look *through it* (in effect, ignore it), which leaves only the front sight and target to reconcile. The fellow with the scope sight has it made! His eye can take it easy, because the lenses in his scope do all of the work for him by bringing cross-hairs and target into one focus. That, and that alone, is why older shooters who find themselves unable to use iron sights can still do mighty well, thank you, with a telescope sight.

The accuracy with which a piece of optical equipment can form a clearly defined image is called its resolving power. The lowest limit of resolving power for the normal human eye is one minute of visual angle. That means that a normal eye can clearly distinguish two points one inch apart at a distance of 100 yards. (The dot on this "i" subtends about 5 minutes of visual angle at normal reading distance.)

The most commonly used eye test is based on one's ability to read black type on a white background, the detail of which substends an angle of one minute at the eye. The familiar eye chart consists of rows of letters decreasing in size from top to bottom. Normal vision is expressed as 20/20. This means that the smallest row of letters, subtending one minute of angle, was read at the examining distance of 20 feet. If only the next row (scaled to subtend one minute of angle at 30 feet) can be read, vision is rated as 20/30. These figures or ratings are not directly comparable. Thus, 20/40 vision is not half as good as 20/20. Tables are used to convert 'visual acuity' ratings to ratings of visual *efficiency*. For example, 20/40 is considered as 84 percent and 20/60 is 70 percent of normal visual efficiency.

No lens ever made is perfect. The eye lens is no exception. There are two ever-present defects that concern shooters. Only one of these—spherical aberration — will be discussed at this point.

Spherical aberration is the distortion of light rays when they pass through the edge of a lens because they are bent more than those passing through the middle of the lens. Spherical aberration is found in every single-lens optical system. Sharpness of image suffers because all the rays do not focus at one point.

Spherical aberration is not too evident in the human eye under good lighting conditions, because the pupil is small and you are using only the center of your eye lenses. Under dim light, however, the pupil becomes widely dilated and light rays pass through the edge of the eye lens. The result is spherical aberration.

Now we know that we can see better (more accurately) if we use only the center of our eye lenses. In spite of that knowledge, we consistently overlook one way in which we can take advantage of this fact. Most of our indoor ranges are lighted at the target only. The rest of the range is left in total or semi-darkness. If we are to see without falling over things, the pupils of our eyes must be wide open in order to admit as much of that faint light as possible. In doing that, we introduce blurred vision (spherical aberration) because light rays are coming through both the center and the edges of our eye lenses. The cure is simple. Flood the indoor range with light from target to firing point. Provide enough light that our lenses can 'stop down', as the photographer expresses it. That is his way of saying that there is enough light that he can partly close the lens diaphragm and admit light rays only through the center of the lens. Just as is does with a camera, stopping down the lens of your eye by providing sufficient light will increase 'depth of focus' and help immensely in letting you see both target and sights distinctly.

If you're shooting on someone else's range, and can't fuss about the lighting arrangements, *(Continued on page 37)*

Bill

th

By
Rex Stanley
Photographs by
Allen C. Reed

BARREL BEGINNING: Veteran barrel-builder William A. Sukalle of Phoenix, Arizona, chucks up a blank of heat-treated chrome-molybdenum steel in the barrel-drilling lathe. Steel stock is first cut to length plus 1-inch overage by electric hacksaw, then both ends are faced and breech end is spotted for drilling. Diameter of metal depends upon kind of rifle to be fitted

"ONE SURE WAY to shooting more accurately—" th broad-shouldered man bent closer over the oil ribbons of metal that curled from a busy lathe "whethe you're aiming for the ten-ring on a range or the hear of a hell-bent buck, is a better barrel!"

The man was William A. Sukalle. His statement abou shooting accuracy was based on more than twenty-fiv years' experience with firearms, from a hand-turne Mauser barrel of 1923 to the present-day Sukalle rifle and barrels, prized by hunters and targeteers alike.

Sukalle's background is typical of top-notch gunsmith in America today—years of hard work, plus patience, with success slow in coming but final and sure when it did Middle-aged, husky, and with the same sharp eyes with which he won several-score medals, he's a real force be hind modern progress in rifle-making—a friendly combina tion of craftsman and shooter.

Sukalle is a master of machine work with firearms His gun rebuilding,—"one part know-how to ten part midnight oil and sweat"—are legend to riflemen. Bu barrels figure first with Sukalle. And since the time 2 years ago when he watched a good automobile repai shop turn into a gun business, he has striven to brin shooting a better barrel.

"It was just pure cussedness, I guess, that made m want to try turning out a barrel in those days," Sukall recalled as we walked through the tunnel of busy machine in his shop. "But I'd been patchin' up some old 94's fo the cowhands around Tucson, making parts for 'em, whe I got a chance to rebarrel a 7-mm. Mauser.

"It was like carving a totem pole with a pocketknife but the Mauser came out okay, so I took a long shot an bought a hundred of Uncle Sam's .22 barrels, World Wa I issue. Rebored 'em to the then-new .257, fitted th barrels to actions, and sold the works right away!" Sukall hitched up his apron. "By then, I was more in the gu business than in automobiles. I felt sure that better bar rels and rifles could be made, with the right machiner and methods . . . so I hit a one-way trail. Gradually gav up grindin' valves and took to building more guns an

harrelman

DRILLING THE BORE: Sukalle examines high-speed tip of sharp barrel drill that cuts on only one side, from center outward. This double machine drills two blanks simultaneously. The drills remain stationary and blanks revolve at 1600 revolutions per minute. Long 47-inch drills, sharpened after each operation, go through barrel blank in about thirty minutes

REAMER'S EDGE: Cutting edge of the reamer is fluted. In all, the blank is reamed in six operations, each one with a slightly larger tool. The first two cuts remove about .002 inch of material, the others about .001 inch. Note the vises that hold blanks, driving grooves, and turning gears. Oil is forced through blanks at 600 pounds pressure to remove steel chips

LOOKIN' IN 'EM: Gunmaker Sukalle and the author 'boresight' a pair of reamed barrels against the interior of the Phoenix shop. When the reaming operation is completed, the smooth, unrifled bore is like a mirror after Sukalle's careful operation. Here the overall construction of a reaming machine is clearly shown

barrels." He shrugged his big shoulders. "That's about all there is to it."

Today, Sukalle enjoys a notable number of 'firsts' in firearms history. The Arizona gunsmith originated offering *barrel blanks* to the shooters who wanted to shape their own sporters and target rifles at home. Big-name manufacturers soon followed. When gunwise Elmer Keith was working with ballistics men Hopkins and O'Neill in developing the Duplex idea, several special Sukalle barrels helped to bring the revolutionary load into being.

Most shooters agree with crack marksman Jack O'Connor, who calls the eight Sukalle-styled sporters he owns "some of the finest examples of American gunmaking in the modern rifleman's world." And he's ready to prove, at the drop of a target, that his .270's and .30-'06's—with 12-inch twists tooled by Sukalle—"will zero all loads and bullets."

Barrelman Sukalle is a unique personality in a day of specialized progress. If it has to do with shooting accuracy, he's interested. Twice a member of the Arizona Camp Perry team that won the Military Challenge Trophy, many years offhand state champion, he sounds like a dyed-in-the-powder rifleman. Actually, he's also an avid handgunner.

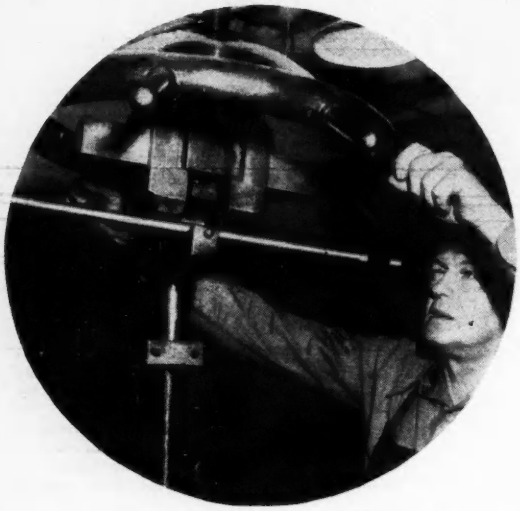
But rifles—in particular, their barrels—are still the bulls-eye of interest for this Arizona gun craftsman. And his usually serious jaw relaxes in a wide grin when he recalls the time some well-meaning friend suggested he take it easy . . . maybe retire for a bit.

"If I retired, I would be out shooting, and before long, I wouldn't be satisfied with my rifle barrel. Then I'd be trying to build a better one."

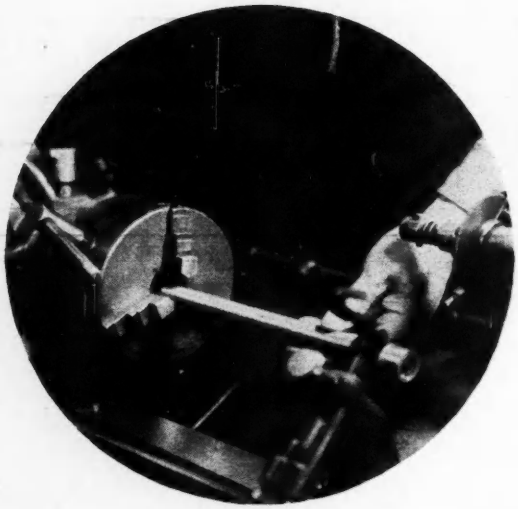
He laughs, and takes in his shop with a sweep of his big hand.

"After all, that's what I'm doing now!"

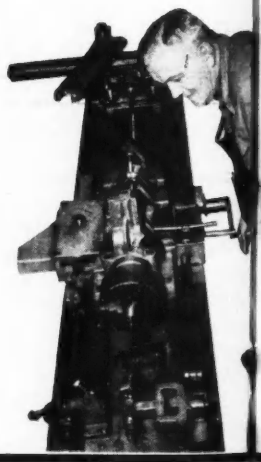
As long as Bill Sukalle isn't completely satisfied with his barrels, American riflemen will know and enjoy the splendid accuracy, strength, and stand-out endurance of the Arizona barrelmaker's fine product. ◆ ◆ ◆



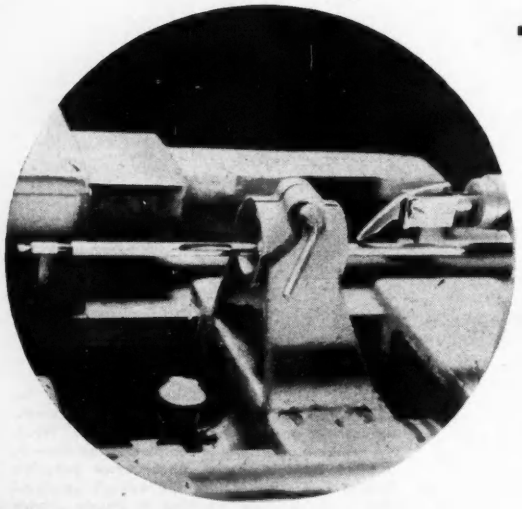
STRAIGHTENING THE BARREL: Following every operation in the building of a Sukalle barrel, the processed blank is carefully checked. The hairline precision of the bore is repeatedly examined, and brought back to Sukalle's tough tolerances if it shows the slightest flaw—or discarded, if it varies too far. Here, the Arizona gunsmith sights through a partially completed barrel for straightening in the clamp shown, before the rifling operation begins.



RIFLING—STEP ONE: The barrel blank, outside turned to final grinding and polishing state and inside reamed, is ready for rifling. Sukalle chucks it up in the rifling machine. Note the ratchet in the foreground, which successively pushes the rifling tool farther into cut of the groove.

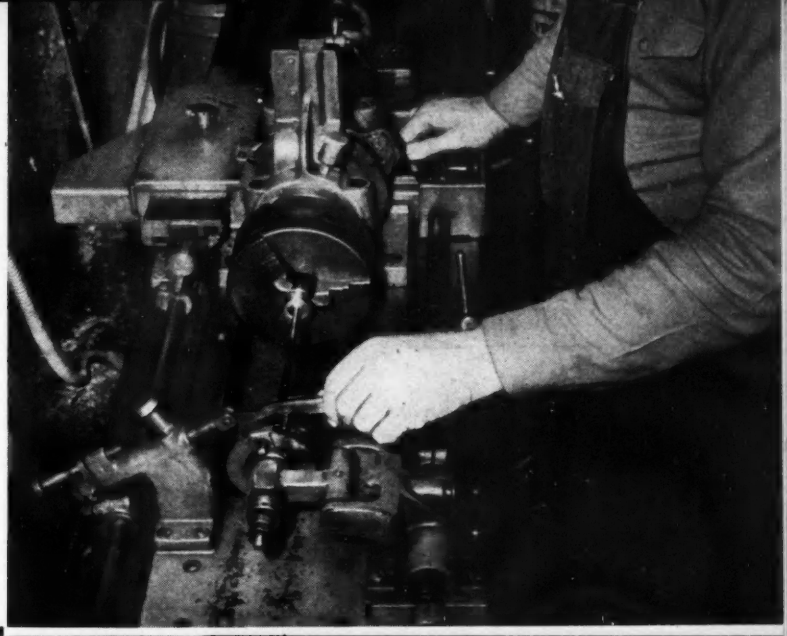


ACTUAL RIFLING: After the barrel b is chucked up in the rifling lathe, the ter-head adjustment is set back so tool clears the bore. Then the machi started, and the ratchet feed mech engaged. Here Sukalle is advancin fling rod through the bore to ratchet in foreground.

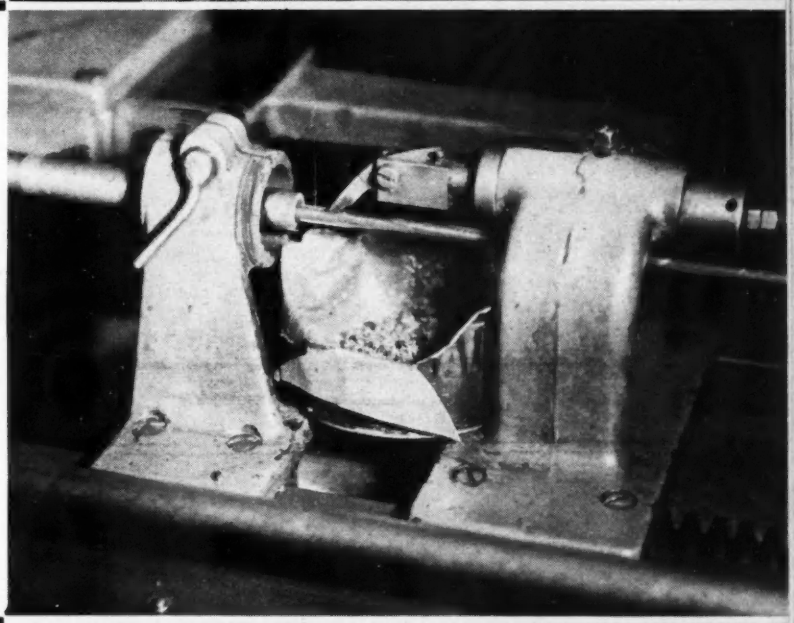


RIFLING—STEP TWO: Photographed from the other end of the rifling lathe, here is the actual tool that cuts the grooves. This is a .30-caliber tool. The sharp knife edge of the tool is at the left hand end of the depression in the rifling rod. The thread end of the rod fits a ratchet-feed mechanism, after passing through barrel blank. At right is the 'shoe' which regulates the cutting edge.

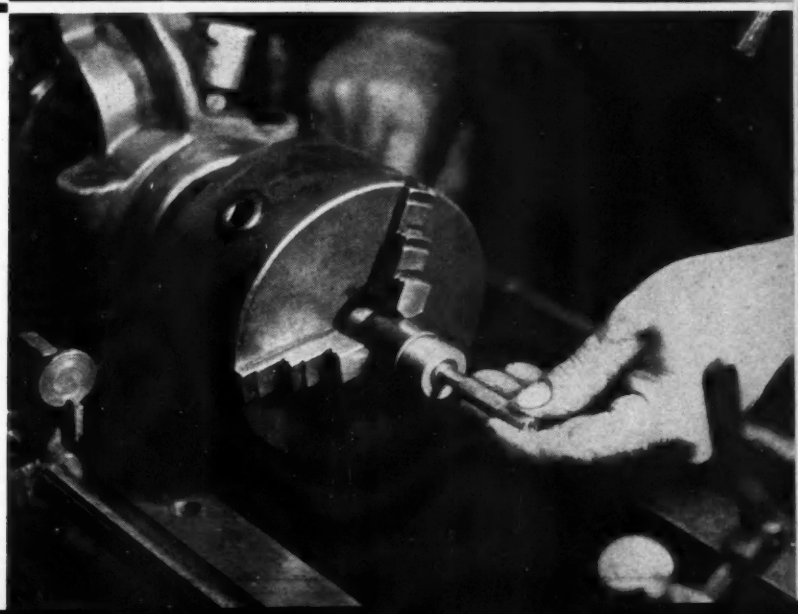
ENGAGING RATCHET: After the tool-feed ratchet is engaged, the machine begins the first rifling cut. The pitch, or number of groove turns within the length of the barrel is preset, and determined by the taper bar. It moves the rack of the lathe crossways, turning a gear on the rifling-rod spindle. The rod with cutter makes one complete cut through the bore. Chips are pushed out of the opposite end by cutter and continuous oil stream.



ONE CUT COMPLETED: After the tool passes through the bore one time—cutting away a small shaving of material—it emerges at the muzzle end of the barrel. Here the 'shoe', as shown, pushes the wedge out from under the cutting head. Then the rifling lathe reverses and the rod and cutter return through the bore without cutting, since the tool is drawn in. The check holding the barrel is indexed—or turned—1/6 of a revolution (Sukalle barrels have six grooves). Again the process is completed through the bore, until all grooves are cut to the desired depth.



RIFLING COMPLETED: Here barrel-builder Sukalle is checking the bore after the rifling operation. A plug gauge is used to be sure that the rifling cuts (grooves) have reached the proper depth. This is, of course, the breech end of the barrel.

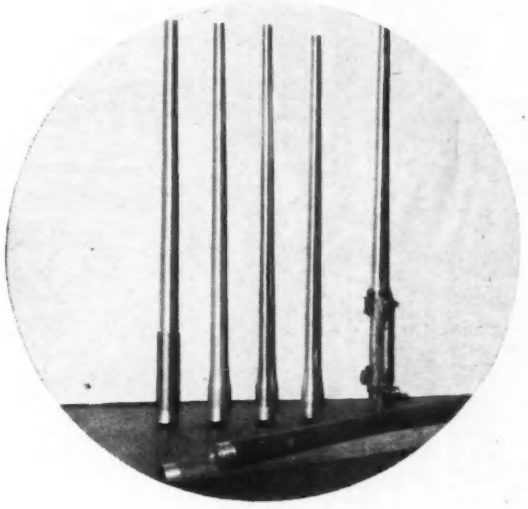


ABSOLUTE ACCURACY: Sukalle measures a lead slug which has been forced into the bore and expanded inside the barrel with a ramrod and hammer. This is an absolute check on the rifling depth. The entire barrel length is held to hairline tolerances by the Arizona gunmaker. Here the rifling marks on the slug —the same as those that will later appear on a bullet fired through the barrel—show plainly.

GRINDING BARREL TAPER: After the muzzle end of the barrel is faced, this cylindrical grinder prepares the exterior for the final polishing job. The rapidly revolving wheel of the grinder moves across the barrel, indexing it as each barrel length is completed, cutting away enough steel to bring the barrel to within .015-.020 inch of the final outside diameter, straight toper.

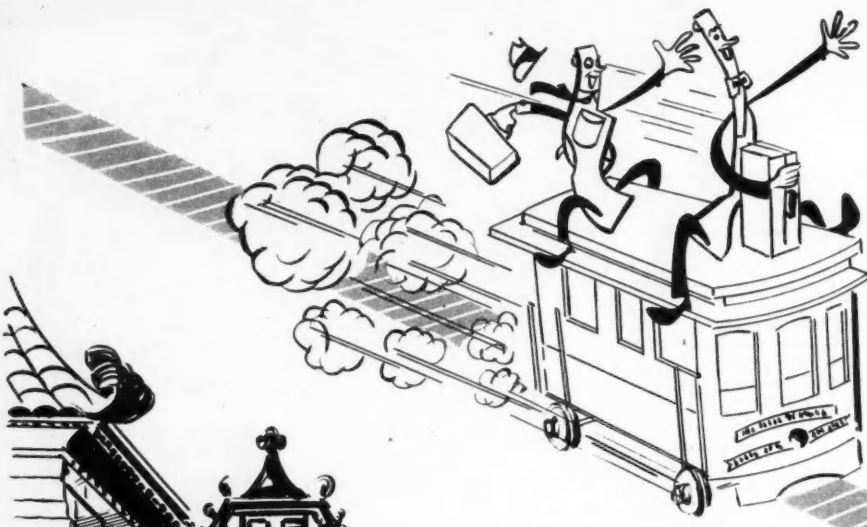
CUTTING THE CHAMBER: Here the barrel is lathed, and the first cut by the roughing reamer will be made in the chamber. The tool is held in a drill chuck in the tailstock of the lathe, to feed it into the breech end of the barrel. Work is lubricated and chips brushed away by oiled brush. Depth of the rough cut is set by stop on the tool, as is the second reaming operation, which completes the chamber for finishing. Final chamber is worked out by hand with third reamer, also set by stop.

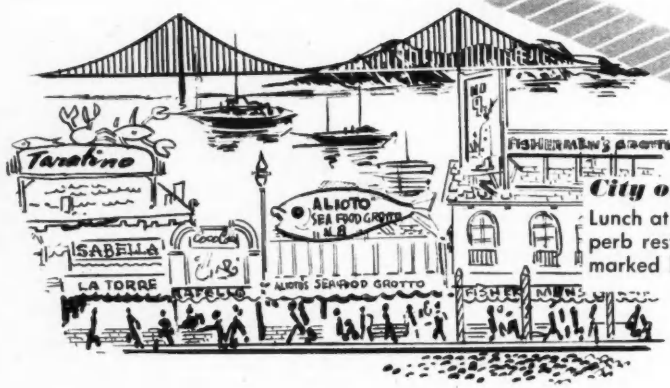
CONING OPERATION: The breech ends of Enfield and Springfield barrels are coned with a broad-pitched reaming tool, such as the one shown. After this cut is made, a regular cartridge is fired in the chamber, to check it for possible rings or scratches. If the chamber is approved by Sukalle, the barrel is proof-tested to a safety margin considerably beyond normal loads. The extractor cut is then made, then comes cone polishing, and the muzzle is crowned. The barrel is completed with installation of Sukalle-style ramp sights or scope mounts and safety. Finally, it is blued.



SEVEN STEPS TO A BARREL: Here are the seven basic steps to barrel building by Sukalle. The bottom blank in foreground is undrilled, chrome-moly stock, faced only. The upper blank has been faced and drilled. Next, extreme left, the first outside cuts have been taken with an ordinary lathe. Then, the outside lathe cuts are completed, roughing in the contour. In the middle, the barrel has been rifled and outside grinding completed. Next, hand buffing is done. Threads have been cut on breech end. Finally, the unblued barrel fitted to an action, the ramp sight installed, with muzzle crowned.

GUNMASTER SUKALLE: Over twenty years of firearms experience stand behind this Sukalle custom sporter—from an early-day Mauser barrel turned out with simple tools in an automotive repair shop, to the present-day Sukalle barrels, prized by shooters over the world. The Arizona gunsmith became so devoted to building better barrels and rifles that he has been at it since 1923. The rifle he holds is headed for the collection of widely known Dr. Russel Smith of Berlin, Wisconsin.





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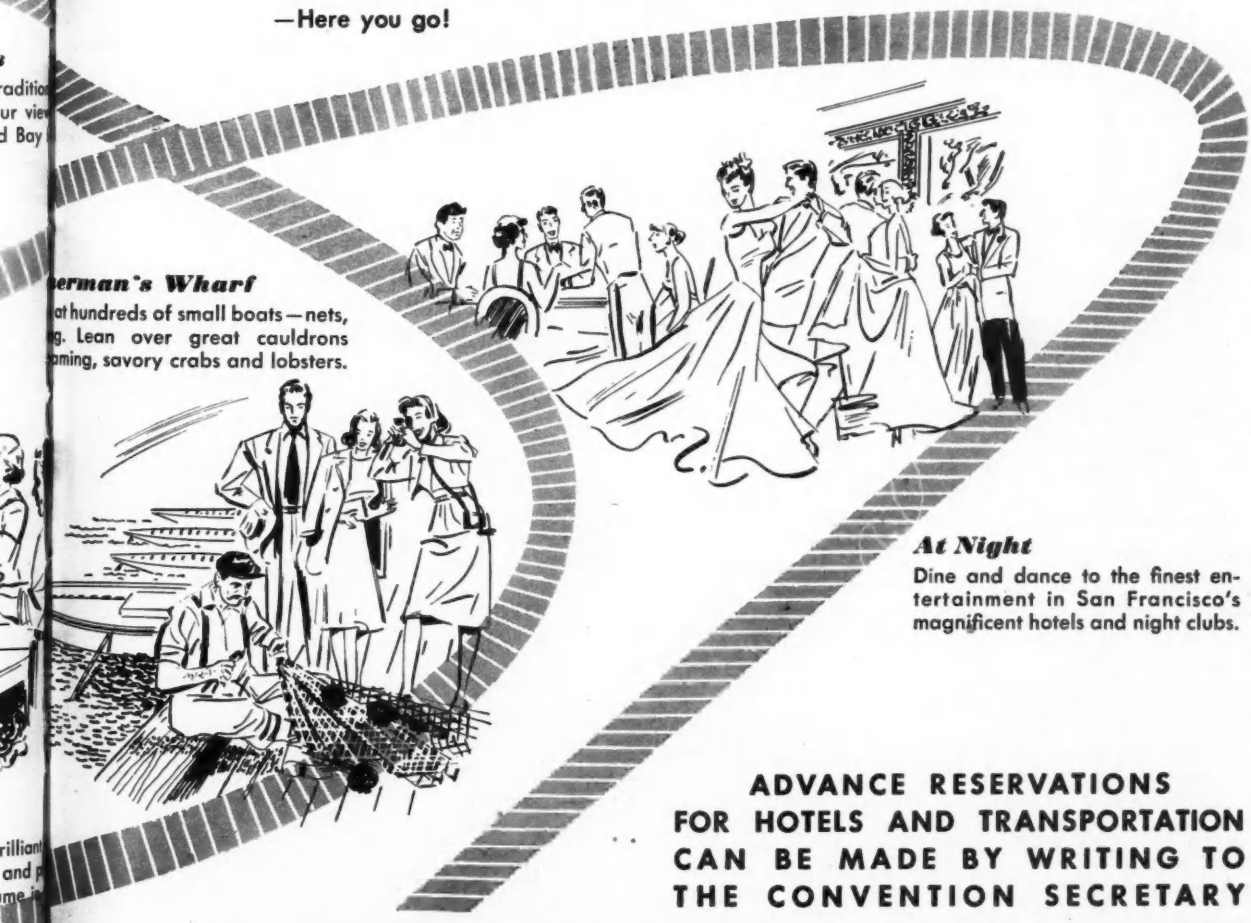

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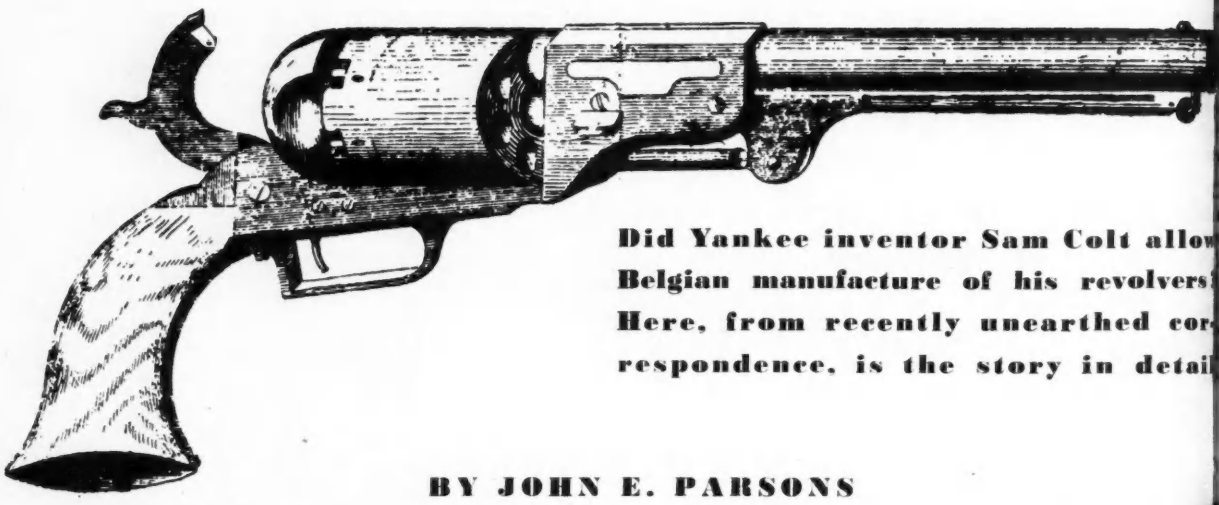
COLT BREVETE



Did Yankee inventor Sam Colt allow Belgian manufacture of his revolvers? Here, from recently unearthed correspondence, is the story in detail

BY JOHN E. PARSONS

COLLECTORS OF ARMS have been much perplexed as to the authenticity of the various percussion revolvers made in Belgium which are stamped COLT BREVETE, COLT PATENT, OR COLT SYSTEM. The workmanship of these pistols quite generally was not up to the standard of the Colt factories at Hartford or London. This factor, together with the warnings against foreign infringements which Samuel Colt frequently published, led many, including the writer, to discount the markings in favor of the view that the inventor would not have authorized such inferior products.*

Lately discovered files of correspondence dating from the 1850's cast a new and penetrating light on the subject. These were found in three places, the Arthur L. Ulrich Museum of Colt's Manufacturing Company, the Connecticut Historical Society, and the Connecticut State Library, the letters hereinafter referred to, unless otherwise attributed, being from the Ulrich Museum. Significant information has also been obtained from the Musée d'Armes at Liége, the Musée de l'Armes in Paris, and from individual collectors in this country and abroad too numerous to thank by name.

It is well known that Samuel Colt, after the extension of his basic American patent, went to Europe to secure further protection for his invention, which had been originally patented in France and England in 1835. During the course of this sojourn he took out new patents in France, England, Austria, Prussia, and a patent in Belgium which was issued in October 1849. While the text of it has not been obtained it undoubtedly followed the tenor of his second British patent, sealed June 20, 1849 and enrolled in December (No. 12,668). The important claims of the latter were "First,—making the lock-frame and recoil shield in one and the same piece"; . . . and "Fourthly,—the application to guns and pistols of the lever apparatus for ramming down the charges . . . the same being a substitute for the loose ramrod." These improvements had both been embodied in the Walker model, made in 1847 at the behest of the War Department, and in fact the second was found in the later commercial models of the Paterson. This prior publication and use in the United States was eventually to have an important bearing on Colt's rights abroad.

Not until after the successful showing of his pistols at the Great Exhibition in London in the summer of 1851 did the inventor, now Colonel Colt, do anything further to protect his interests on the Continent. A provision of the Belgian patent law, and one quite common in European countries, was that within two years after taking his patent an inventor must, to preserve its validity, have his invention produced within the country. To meet this requirement Colt's British patent counsel, W. E. Newton, went to Liége and had several revolvers of Colt's design made by a local gunsmith. In a letter of September 21, 1851, Newton reported:

"The new pistol is made (for Belgium) and is very nicely finished. . . . Not one but several manufacturers here have made the arms for exportation. I have not

* The question is discussed in James E. Serven's recent monograph "Colt Percussion Pistols", and Mr. Serven's cooperation in the evaluation of the evidence since developed is gratefully acknowledged.

en the infringement but I have information from a orkman. They are making several sizes one larger and o smaller than the one I have."

a subsequent letter to Colt from Liége, Newton advised he had visited the proof house and obtained information many infringements had recently passed through there, e for export to Mexico. He thereupon had a circular graphed notifying the trade of Colt's Belgian patent and rtised it in the newspapers of Liége and Brussels. He also inted a local arms manufacturer to represent Colt, rting:

"I have decided (subject to your approval) that every stol shall pay 10 francs royalty and have your name amped thereon by your representative M. Devos Sera. or this purpose I have furnished him with a steel die ith the words 'Colt Brevete' thereon. I have taken these ecautions and made such arrangements that the manu- cturers can neither plead ignorance of the Patent nor t continue to make without our knowledge.

I have also arranged (subject to your approval) that r his trouble M. Devos shall receive one franc for every stol manufactured, that is 10 percent on the net pro- eeds."

olt evidently confirmed this action taken on Newton's initiative, for Devos-Sera continued as Colt's Belgian t and collected, according to his own account, 17,550 cs in royalties down to April 18, 1853. Colt on a visit iége raised the fee on long arms to 25 francs and specified t requirements as to quality for stamping. A copy of the pectus drawn up by Newton has been found in the library he Musée d'Armes at Liége, of which a translation is as ws:

"Pistols and Guns of Multiple Fire with a Single Barrel.

Colt System, Patented in October 1849.

Firearms of the Colt system, which has recently been markedly improved, nowadays leave nothing further to be desired; a multitude of testimonials bearing witness to their indisputable superiority and the reception which they have been accorded by the Boards of Ordnance in the United States and England bestow all praise.

They are six to eight shot, are easily loaded and fire like other arms; they have a more substantial range and greater accuracy.

Orders should be sent prepaid to M. Devos-Sera, maker of arms, Rue Petite Tour, Liége.

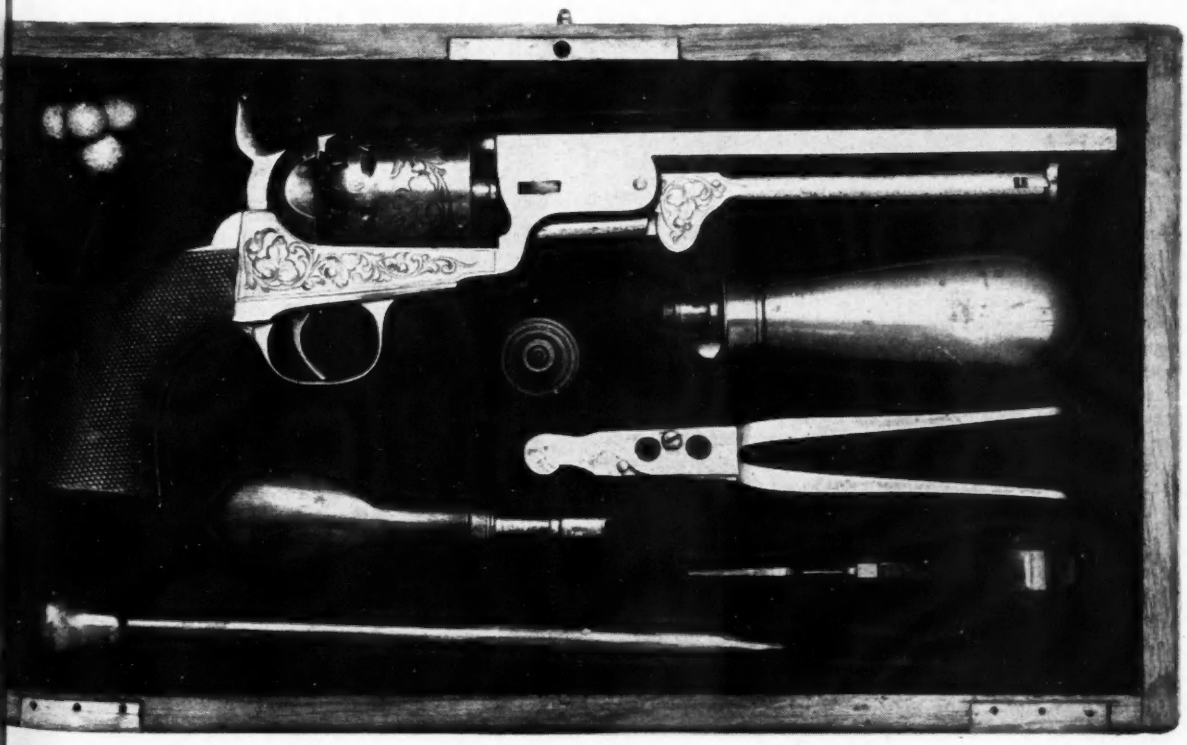
Every infringer of these arms will be prosecuted according to Law.

Gunsmiths wishing to negotiate with the Patentee for the right to manufacture may likewise apply to the aforesaid representative at the Rue Petite Tour.

Liége, the 20th of September, 1851
S. Colt."

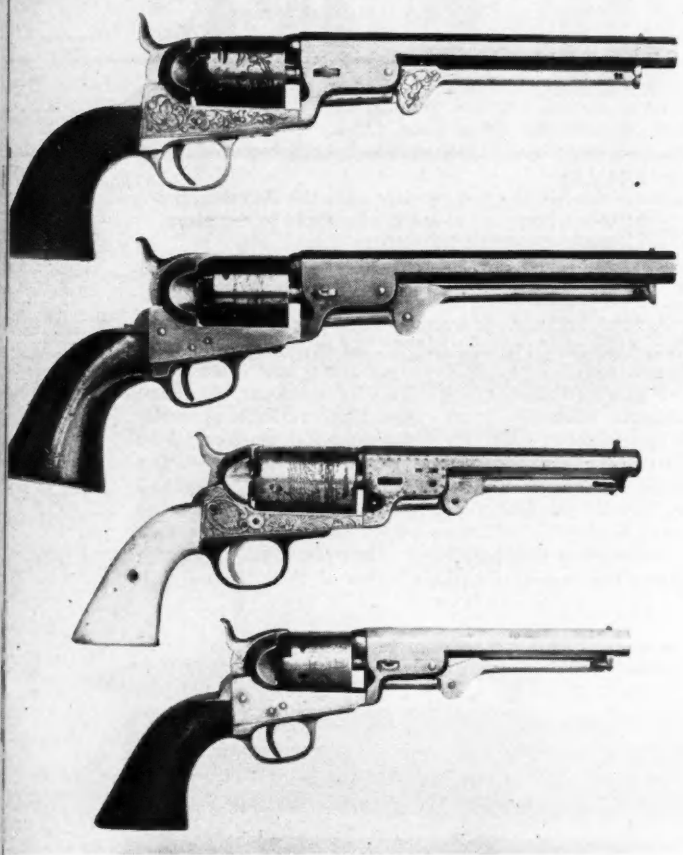
Devos-Sera's methods of operation are described in a letter he wrote Colt on April 19, 1853, after being replaced by a new agent. At first the Belgian had authorized three firms, Messrs. Rennotte-Desart, P. Fagard, and Harar, to forge the parts and after stamping to make them available generally to the gunsmiths of Liége for assembling and finishing. Five other concerns were subsequently added to this list—Gilles Decourtis, P. Genotte, Guillaume Mariette, Coleil Frères, and Jaques Bayard—but Devos-Sera had meanwhile forbidden the makers of forgings to sell them except through him, a policy that caused much dissatisfaction. Devos-Sera also informed Colt that three makers, Charles Charlier of Wandre, and J. J.

Cased Navy revolver stamped COLT BREVETE, made by N. Gilon. Author's collection. On opposite page, drawing of Belgian Colt revolver from Colt prospectus issued at Liége, September 20, 1851. Courtesy Musée d'Armes, Liége



Herman and Lhoest of Charatte, having obtained patents on variations of Colt's design, were making infringements and selling them at a lower price.

Prior to Devos-Sera's replacement Renkin Frères, a Belgian firm which had had pistols stamped, rather naively inquired



Navy and pocket model revolvers with Liége proofmarks. Top example was made by N. Gilon, second by L. Ghaye, third (with cylinder engraving of Brooklyn Bridge) is marked COLT EXTRA AMERICAN, and bottom arm is by N. Gilon. All are from author's collection except Brooklyn Bridge specimen, which is in the National Rifle Association collection

"whether there is any danger in forwarding them to their correspondents in the United States as respects Col. Colt's patent in those countries." This query alarmed Colt, who was in England to open his new factory, and he sent word back "that on no consideration can I give permission to have arms made under my Patents sent from any part of Europe to the United States." He followed this up with a letter of February 1, 1853 to A. W. Spies & Co. of New York, who had given Renkin a note of introduction:

> "I have seen samples of the arms that are infringements upon my Patents. They are sed to have been made in Liege and are the most infurnal productions I ever have looked at & better calculated to kill behind than before. . . . Should it so happen that I make an arrangement with a respectable house in Liege to manufacture my arms upon payment of a royalty I shall never consent to have them imported into the United States, be they ever so well constructed & I shall prossecut aney person who offers them for sail to the full extent of the law. I do not intend even to allow the arms I am making here to be sent to America for sale. My prices here allone will prevent that."

Although Colt's spelling was weak, he could on occasi write a very forceful letter. Colt's reaction to the dissat faction of Belgian licensees and to the competition of fringers was equally characteristic. He offered parts export to Belgium at reduced prices, and he changed age replacing Devos-Sera with J. Samthill, an Englishman re ing in Brussels. He did not, however, recede from the p tion taken with Renkin Frères, to whom he wrote dire on March 19:

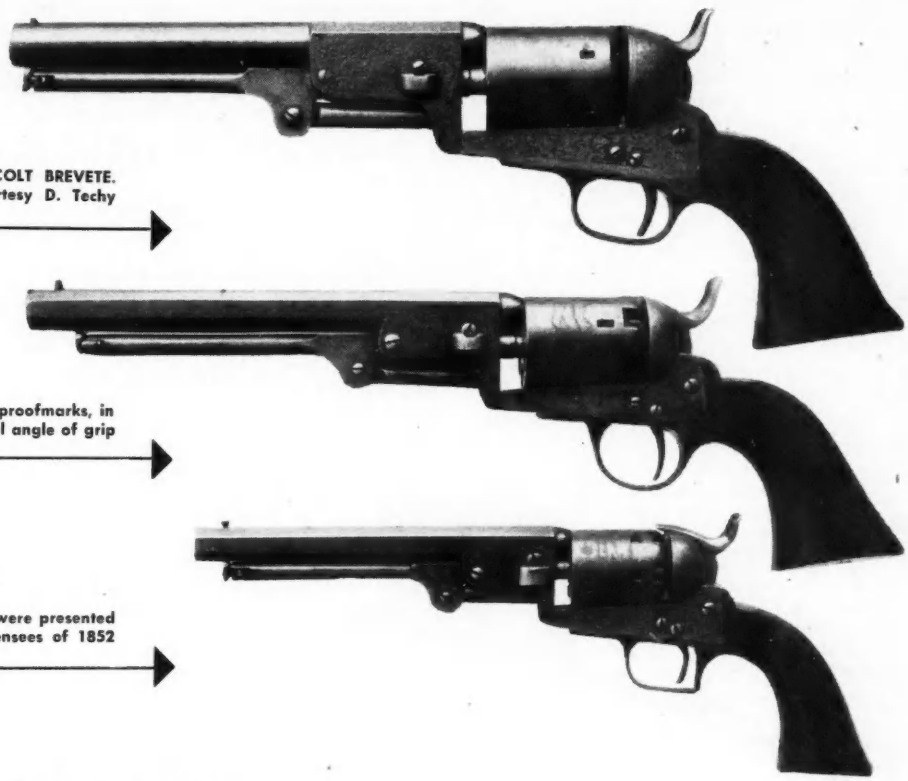
> "In America I have a large manufactory for construct ing my arms, of a very superior quality; and I have to protect the *reputation* of these arms as well for their *manufacture* as for their patentee.
>
> In America, my patented rights have been fully sustained, and must and will be protected. The agent temporarily appointed in Leiege, was an acquaintance of my patent agent, and selected by him; my object being simply, to enable the manufacturers of Belgium to make my arms for their *home market alone*, and not to ship them to other countries, like America England & France, or elsewhere, where my patents will protect my local interest."

This letter explains the rationale of Colt's numerous wa ings printed on his price lists and trade literature in t United States and England against the importation foreign imitations. One such quoted in Mr. Serven's mo graph specifically warned against the sale in England "foreign made pistols, rifles, revolvers &c., stamped 'C Brevete', 'Colt Patent' &c." Another, from the New Y Herald of February 26, 1853, read:

> "Colt's Pistols, Notice—Dealers in firearms are hereby notified that imitations of Colt's arms manufactured in Europe, and closely resembling the genuine are now imported into the U. S. for sale. A sale of any such arm would be an infringement of Col. Colt's patents and as the spurious are offered for genuine Colt's Pistols, this notice is given to put dealers and purchasers on their guard. Any person found importing or selling such arms or any others made in violation of Col. Colt's patents will be prosecuted. Samuel Colt."

These notices, if carefully read, did not mean that a marked Brevete were in themselves counterfeits, but only t their importation into countries where other Colt pate prevailed was unlawful. Colt continued to publish the however, long after his domestic patents had expired. tolerated foreign licensees in order to insure some sort patent protection abroad, his underlying purpose being alwa to preserve the market for his domestic product. Besi Latin America there were many European countries wh Colt had no patent protection and where Belgian arms fou a market. Thus, a correspondent wrote him from C stantinople in July 1854: "Innumerable immitations of yo patent are here from France and Belgium, as different as pas from the true brilliant" (Connecticut Historical Soci Collection).

J. Samthill took energetic steps to satisfy the Liége g makers, and at the same time to curtail infringement. induced seven of the largest manufacturers to sign condition whereby they could purchase imported parts for finishi subject to strict inspection as to workmanship. These fir were Ancion & Co., Pirlot Freres, Collette, Dandoy, Hanqu Drisson & Co., and Petry. Subsequently three other mak

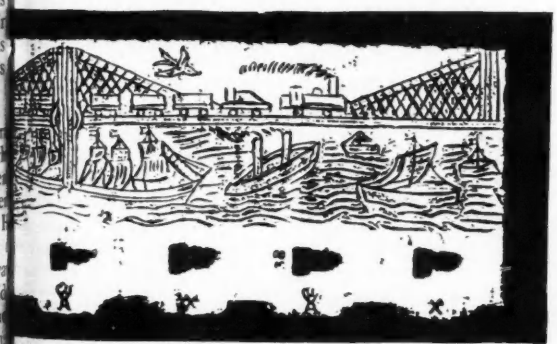


...oon with Liége proofmarks, stamped COLT BREVETE. ...usée d'Armes, Liége. Photograph courtesy D. Techy

...y model of Colt revolver, also with Liége proofmarks, in ...usée d'Armes at Liége. Note the unusual angle of grip

...st model similar to above. All of these were presented ...e museum by J. Lemille, one of the licensees of 1852

...ncotte, Lemille, and Renkin Frères signed up, according to ...necked list of arms manufacturers of 1852, published by the ...of House of Liége and found in the Ulrich Museum. At ... same time Samthill busied himself tracking down in... ...gers and warning them to desist. He also prevented Devos... ...a from getting a patent in Holland for making revolvers ...re, and brought proceedings against him to recover stamp... ...fees not previously accounted for. One bit of evidence



...der of third specimen (opposite) shows this scene of Brooklyn bridge

... provided by a workman who had mounted twenty-one ...ols for the former agent, all bearing the same serial ...mber.

...Col. Colt sailed for America June 15, leaving behind a ...er for Samthill fixing the prices for sets of metallic parts, ...follows:

...Pocket size, 4, 5, and 6 inch barrel	— 50 francs;
...Navy size	— 65 francs;
...Army size (if sent)	— 75 francs.

At the prevailing rate of exchange the parts could thus be bought for about fifty percent of the retail price of finished Colt arms in the United States. The royalty of ten francs (about $2) was to be charged in addition "after the arm is perfected, assembled, proved, and passed inspection". Colt stated that "parts of 1000 Arms of each size, Navy and Pocket (in all parts for 2000 Arms)" would be shipped from America immediately. For a ready model Samthill was referred to "one left at the Proof House in Liége with the Proof Commissioner." As usual Colt had made a presentation where it would do the most good.

Samthill's difficulties now began in earnest. A lengthy correspondence between him and Charles F. Dennet, Colt's London sales representative, reveals that upon the seizing by legal process of a number of infringing revolvers in the hands of Liége makers, the validity of Colt's Belgian patent was put in question. The same challenge threatened to block their distribution when the parts arrived from America, and the manufacturers would not take them at the prices set by Colt. Samthill came to suspect that many pistols were being made and exported without going through the proof house or being stamped. When he could not arrange to get the steel that Colt used and which was specified in the conditions, he wrote that "practically the agreement signed by the manufacturers is become a dead letter". His only reported success was in obtaining a blanket warrant to search for infringements, and in arranging to be tipped off by the proof house if any were submitted there. In two weeks he was thus able to seize seventy-three pistols.

One incident in this campaign was ironic indeed. Samthill saw in a shop window in Liége a small pistol which he bought in order to get evidence against the proprietor, who had promised to have others like it on hand the following week. In a letter to Dennet of November 12, 1853, Samthill wrote:

"I expect it is an American Counterfeit. It is a four inch barrell. Has no triggerguard. The Trigger is flat and springs out on bringing the Hammer to full Cock. On the Cylinder is 'Colt' and on the Barrell, 'Patent Arms—Paterson NJ. Colts Pt.' . . . The man who sold it will wish he had never seen it, or I mistake."

Samthill's next letter, written to Col. Colt who had meanwhile returned to England, suggested "it would be well to have some of the parts now lying at Liége mounted", and also mentioned bringing over to Colt "A Liége made pistol by which you will see that a very considerable improvement has been made in the workmanship". On December 12, Samthill, who had in the interim visited Colt, wrote of getting together the Liége manufacturers in order to arrive at a price they would pay for parts, and then asked for information "when you first applied the *Lever* to your pistols, and also, when you first made the body of the Lock frame, and the Recoil Shield from a single piece of steel." The writer was beginning to suspect that he was not fully informed about

Action of .36 caliber Belgian revolving rifle in author's collection. Stamped inside the triggerguard is LAM (possibly for Jules Lamarche of Liége)

previous Colt manufacture, and spoke of the difficulty of enforcing seizures without proof that the Belgian patent had not been anticipated by production in the United States. In a letter of December 28, 1853, he touched on these subjects again, reporting that he had proof of the making of 454 pistols by one firm "after your patent was granted and before you took any steps to profit by it". Colt replied (with a lack of candor quite obvious to the student of Paterson production):

"No such arms were made for the market during the year 1847; and none before except for experimental purposes, and I have no knowledge of any of them having been sent to the European market. Regarding the Lock-frame and Recoil Shield united in one piece, the *first* were made for the American Government, in the latter part of 1847 and the early part of 1848."

Samthill was not at all reassured by this information, observing that "it appears to me very questionable, whether an Improvement that you applied publickly in the U. S. in 1847 & 1848 can be secured to you by a Patent taken out in 1849." Colt's only response to this comment was that the improvement was not patented in America but abroad first. While Samthill had unerringly put his finger on the essential weakness of Colt's Belgian patent, the first real attack on it came in a different quarter. On February 4, 1854 Samthill wrote:

"There is a Man at Liége named Charlier that I have twice seized Pistols from, and had him before the Tribunal, but have let off by paying expences, and confiscating the arms seized on his signing an undertaking not to make any more. I caught him again however and find it is no use without going to the end—this man it seems is backed up by others, and now disputes the validity of your patent on the ground of its not having been put in operation by you within the Time required by Law."

Colt and Newton were able to assure Samthill that ne sary formalities had been complied with, but the suit inv ing Charlier apparently dragged on for several years until defendant hit upon the real flaw in the patent. There gap in the correspondence relating to the case, the next fou being for the year 1857 in the collection of the Connect Historical Society. This does not refer to Charlier by name, but to affidavits forwarded abroad by Colt which in his own words "virtually gives the lye to the statement that is made by a man at Leages regarding the Lever attached to my Pistols. . . . Should there be anything further wanted in this line I can send it & if necessary even send out witnesses from this country to sware that levers were not attached to my pistols at the time stated". This offer to gild thé lily was q in vain, if we are to believe a footnote in Dean's *Manua Firearms* published in 1858, stating as recent informat "we have learned that a Tribunal in Belgium . . . reje a suit of Col. Colt's against a manufacturer of that coun in regard to his lever-ramrod".

Above and bel miniature revolve the Musée d'A Liége. Caliber is length is 2¼ i

The author is indebted for information as to the final come of the suit to a letter from Monsieur Techy, Curato the Musée d'Armes at Liége:

"In *L'Armurerie Liégeoise* of 1 April 1902, page 47 it is stated in a study on the revolvers in the Musé d'Armes by Monsieur Polain, director of the Proo House, 'In 1836 when it was patented on the Continen it (the Colt revolver) did not yet have its ramrod o lever-rammer, which dates only from 1848.' This ram rod was the object of a suit which made quite a stir i the gunsmith's district around Liége. A maker of re volvers, Charles Charlier of Wandre, had also con structed a percussion revolver whose jointed ramro resembled that of the Colt revolver. The latter bein prior, Colt attacked it. Charlier modified his ramro by using a ratchet and placing the shank under the fram of the pistol where it composed the trigger-guard.

He even took out a patent for this novel arrangemen on 23 September 1852, but he could not however escap the suit and this lasted for several years when Charlie at the point of losing it, discovered that several year previously Monsieur Lassence, an arms maker, had man ufactured for a foreigner two revolvers having the sam arrangement as constituted the object of the litigatio This discovery would in consequence make Colt's paten fall into the public domain. A settlement ensued in th course of which Charlier allowed himself to be enjoine in consideration of an indemnity (which Colt pai him)."

Another fragment of correspo ence, this time from the Connect State Library, indicates that C Belgian patent was still in litigation 1861. A letter of April 3 from F eric A. K. W. Von Oppen in Liég Col. Colt at Hartford speaks of a suit begun by one Lhoest prove our patent to be valueless, and we cannot help defend ourselves . . . Agents from the Slave States purchase at pres all the arms of war on hand in Liége . . . Without the pa at this present moment, thousands of Colt's pistols would made here for exportation to the U. S. and elsewhere; the doing much harm to the sale of your genuine pistols".

Von Oppen had worse news to *(Continued on page*

Pennsylvania
GUNSMITH SCHOOL

To complete the Rifleman's report on gunsmithing schools, here are the facts about Pittsburgh's rapidly-growing Pennsylvania Gunsmith School

SINCE PUBLICATION of the RIFLEMAN's report on gunsmithing schools (March, pages 18-23), another school of this type has come to our attention. Located in the populous industrial city of Pittsburgh, the Pennsylvania Gunsmith School (423 Federal Street, Pittsburgh 10, Pa.) is the only trade school east of the Mississippi catering to the demand for training in professional gunsmithing. A. W. Thacker, organizer and owner, is a jeweler and watchmaker by vocation and has operated jewelry and watchmaking schools in both Pittsburgh and Warren, Ohio.

As originally set up, the school was equipped with twelve work benches permitting two daily shifts of 25 students each. This was a fairly satisfactory arrangement at first, but it was not long before there were over a hundred prospective students on the waiting list. Since gunsmithing schools in the United States are a new venture, Thacker felt it necessary to be conservative in both the purchase of machine-tool equipment and the allocation of floor space. Since then, however, the school has acquired a production milling machine and large lathe suitable for barrel chambering and turning. The problem of additional space has now been solved through the leasing of an entire floor in a modern well-lighted office building, with an area of over 4500 square feet. The original school will also be retained.

When equipped with benches and machine-tool equipment the new school will have a capacity of from 175 to 200 students and in addition will be set up for such advanced gunsmithing projects as the chambering and fitting of rifle barrels, which are not carried out under the present course.

Admission requirements are not strict but the prospective student must pass a practical aptitude test in both metal- and woodworking. A definite attempt is made to discourage the entrance of any man who it is felt will not be able to handle the curriculum in a satisfactory manner. Thacker intimated that preference would be given to the man trained in metal- or woodworking. The school is approved by the Veterans' Administration and the Pennsylvania Department of Education for Private Trade Schools.

No school housing is available at the present time but authorities cooperate with students in locating rooms. Average cost of rooms is $5 to $7 per week. Due to its location in a large city, little trouble is encountered by students of the school in obtaining room and board at reasonable rates. Tuition for private students is currently $56 per month. Essential tools for the course cost about $30.00 and are obtainable on either a purchase or rental basis. Other tools and books are available on checkout from the main tool crib.

The present course runs for 51 weeks. Under the new setup an advanced 51-week course is proposed which will be available to graduates of gunsmithing schools or professional gunsmiths. Advanced-course students desiring instruction in steel engraving will be able to take such courses.

Stanley M. Raffer, who has been a professional gunsmith as well as a tool- and diemaker for 20 years, is responsible for all gunsmithing instruction for the present course, and is director of the school. In addition to his professional accomplishments Raffer holds both a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Arts degree. He has a completely-equipped professional shop in his own home and is licensed under city, state, and federal gunsmithing statutes. When the enlarged school is placed in operation three full-time professional gunsmiths and two assistant instructors will be on hand to assist Raffer.

The present course accents the type of gunsmithing problems normally encountered in the small shop with emphasis on the practical aspect rather than the academic. Machine-tool equipment such as drill presses, grinding and polishing equipment, small metal lathe, and a band saw are available. A separate room is equipped for instruction in conventional bluing methods. Electric and gas furnaces as well as standard acetylene welding equipment are available.

Utilizing both hand and power tools, the student manufactures a sturdy checkering cradle, stock clamps, and hand tools used throughout the course. The complete conversion of a military rifle such as a Springfield, Mauser, or Enfield is a typical course project, and includes the inletting, shaping, and checkering of a conventional sporting-type stock from the rough blank.—M. D. WAITE.

Though Pittsburgh school offers some classwork, main emphasis is on shop training. At left is heat-treating room

Buffalo Bill (William F. Cody)

A. H. Bogardus

ALL-TIME RIFLE CHAMP

By CHARLES ASKINS, JR.

DURING THE FABULOUS period from the close of the Civil War to 1900 referred to nostalgically as the "good old days," when whiskey cost 85 cents a gallon, bustles were indispensable feminine appurtenances, and medicine shows were entertainment mainstays, there flourished a select class of individuals practically unknown today. These were the exhibition shooters.

Probably first and certainly the best known of these trick and fancy shooters was that nemesis of the stodgy bison, Buffalo Bill. Mister William Cody, while little more than a fair-to-middlin' marksman, was a showman par excellence. If Bill couldn't hit the little glass balls with his rifle, he simply bored the lands out of the tube and thereafter used shot shells. The resulting showers of glass quite as well satisfied the cash customers. Only slightly less well known than the buckskin-clad Cody were Doc Carver, A. H. Bogardus, Annie Oakley and many others.

It should be explained for the benefit of those who weren't there that during those halcyon days amusement was definitely limited to the simpler things. The horseless carriage, the flying machine, and the wireless telegraph were either completely unheard of or very much in the embryonic stages. The corner drugstore as a gathering place for the Youth of the Land, the movies, cocktail lounges, dancing bistros, bowling alleys, and other similar and equally harmless places of amusement were either unknown or woefully underrated.

It was for this reason as much as any other that exhibitors of skill with the rifle and shotgun attracted great audiences. The marksmen who put on these shows traveled far and wide, smashing their little glass balls as they were tossed by well-trained assistants, and always to the plaudits of attentive crowds who were accustomed to a brand of entertainment simple and conservative as measured by today's giddy standards.

Too, the '80s and '90s represented the last golden era for America's sportsmen. Game was in abundance everywhere and a not-small segment of the audiences that watched Buffalo Bill and Doc Carver were sportsmen themselves. Handling firearms in field and marsh for perhaps six months of each year, they knew good shooting when they saw it. For these and perhaps other less obvious reasons, the trick and fancy shooters—they were legion—enjoyed a constant popularity.

It was inevitable that the headliners 'mongst the trick and fancy shooters would harbor no little jealousy one for the other. While it may have been a day in which entertainment leaned to the simpler side, those characters who strained to provide the entertainment felt not the slightest twinges of compunction when it came to making anything but simple claims about their respective merits. There were no less than seven 'Rifle Champions of the World' at one and the same

Annie Oakley

Captain A. B. Elliott and his son Freddie, who was billed as the "Nine-Year-Old Wonder of the Nineteenth Century"

time. Of these, one even laid title to the crown of 'Grand Rifle and Pistol Champion of the Entire Universe'. For purposes of computation here we have tossed him in with the others. It may be readily appreciated that these claims gave rise to no little bickering, dissension, and a sizable amount of ill accord among the self-appointed "champions".

Despite the numerous claims of world championship it is a strange fact that little or no serious attempt was essayed by the ranking marksmen to get together and settle their conflicting claims under identical rules, firing shoulder-to-shoulder, and subject to the same conditions of wind and weather. Instead of doing this our top-flight gunner usually got his friends gathered about him, then repaired to the most suitable firing grounds, either indoors or outdoors, waited until the weather was ideal and proceeded to crush just as many of the tiny glass balls as he possibly could. These targets, seldom seen today, measured from two to three inches in diameter and were either thrown by a simple trap which heaved them neither too high nor too rapidly, or were tossed by an obliging and exceedingly apt attendant.

Excluding Bill Cody, A. H. Bogardus was the best known of our early exhibition gunners. His shooting was limited exclusively to the shotgun. A long-time resident of the game-rich state of Illinois, Bogardus had acquired his skill with the smoothbore in the duck blinds along the Mississippi. Seeking to set a record which would clearly establish him as the Number One gunner of a gunning land, Bogardus whanged away at 1,000 glass balls on the Fourth of July, 1877, at Lincoln, Illinois. When the last thin tinkle of broken glass had died away it was found that this straight-pointing Illinoisan had missed just 27 of the tiny spheres. He used two 12-gauge breechloading shotguns and during the exhibition, had a straight run of 300 targets without a miss.

This was a record at the time and stood until Bogardus went to Cincinnati in September of the same year where he again blazed away at the glass targets, winding up with only 19 missed out of the thousand. Not content, he tried the game later during the year, and this time at Bradford, Pennsylvania, he missed only ten. This stood as a Bogardus record. He essayed the glass balls numerous times after that but never approached his high-water mark established at Bradford. In 1879, while firing in New York he missed 156 targets out of 5,000 thrown.

In 1884, the colorful Annie Oakley shot at 5,000 glass balls, using a sixteen-gauge shotgun, and missed 228. Although Annie missed a considerable number of the perishable baubles it was a commendable piece of powder burning in that she had shot at five thousand targets without rest or let up. This was an endurance feat of no minor proportions.

While the shooting of Bogardus and Annie Oakley represents bang-up good gunning it should be borne in mind that it was done with shotguns. Now a scattergun puts out not a single ball but several hundred pellets which—quite happily—arrange themselves into a pattern. This pattern permits of a sizable error in aim and still permits hitting. Not to be confused with the shotgun is the rifle. This weapon spews forth one single slug for each pressure of the trigger and this infinitesimal bit of metal must be directed with superior accuracy to connect with the target.

Some years after Bogardus had pulverized the little glass balls with such regularity an unknown marksman in New York, Dr. A. H. Ruth, shot at the customary 1,000 targets. Unlike Bogardus, Dr. Ruth used a .22-caliber repeating rifle. He amazed the shooting world by smashing 984 of the one-thousand balls. This was in 1883.

The year following, Annie Oakley tried the same stunt and hit 943 out of the one-thousand. It was remarkable shooting

Ad Toepperwein as he appeared shortly before his retirement. Now eighty, he lives on a ranch near San Antonio

a woman and Annie got much credit for her performance. The year following Annie Oakley's shooting stint, Doc rver decided it was high time he clinched his claim as the rld's champion rifle shooter. One day the good doctor ed up his guns, hitched up his belt, and shooting day and ht (11 AM until 11:30 PM) banged away at 60,016 glass ls tossed into the air at a distance of around 25 feet. rver used ten .22-caliber repeating rifles. Out of the 60,016 gets fired upon, all but 4,865 were cleanly smashed. This s considered a world record and as the newspapers had no rs, strikes, or other likely reader grist at the time they gave versatile doctor (he was a dentist but devoted little time ailing molars) a good many columns of very pleasant blicity.

In 1886, the year following, Carver decided he would better former mark and if possible hang up such a score as to see stand for many years to come. The conditions were as be-e: same targets, same ten rifles, same distance. The shooter mmenced at 11 AM, winding up nightly at thirty minutes fore 12. The exhibition this time was staged in Minneapolis he first had been at New Haven, Connecticut) and ap-rently the climate, the congeniality of his Scandinavian dience, or other favorable circumstances more or less ob-ired at this time and distance, contributed most markedly to success of world's champion Carver's demonstration. He fired at the 60,000 targets and wound up with only 650 sses. This was accomplished during a six-day period and s a remarkable improvement over the former score in which 65 balls had failed to shatter. The news sheets again gave durable doctor much laudatory space, commenting as uch on his strength and staying qualities as on his marks-anship.

Carver toured America and various European countries er that, his title as world's rifle champion an undisputed im. That is, until a comparative unknown, an upstart med B. A. Bartlett, got wound up one day out in Buffalo, d some 144 shooting hours later, after having banged away some 64,017 composition balls, 2¼ inches in diameter, d knocked Carver's record into a cocked hat. He had ssed only 280 of the tiny flying marks. His was a substan-l victory.

A short time later—in 1894 to be exact—a long hungry -foot Texan came drifting up out of Mexico. He had been wn there with a circus for almost a year putting on rifle and tol shooting exhibitions. Without fanfare or publicity e six-footer broke 955 out of 1,000 clay discs, 2¼ inches in ameter. This was in no way a record unless the mere fact at the shooting at clay discs constituted the establishment a record. It is probably more worthy of note for the ct that this Texan went on to become the greatest shooter e world has ever known.

His name was Toepperwein. His father who was the eatest Schuetzen marksman about San Antonio had chris-ned him Adolph. From his modest beginning on the clay cs, "Ad" Toepperwein went on not only to establish shoot-g records which have bettered all of those fired by his con-mporaries, but records so unbelievably high as to stand for time.

Far from being solely interested in smashing more glass balls an the next fellow, Toepperwein had a hundred tricks of ooting legerdemain up his sleeve, icks so remarkably difficult and so autifully coordinated and executed at many of them have never been plicated by any gunner. For fifty-ree years this brilliant Texan toured e country putting on his gunning ows and inspiring countless millions young Americans to emulate him. To get back to those glass balls—

A short while after his preliminary attempt on the clay discs, "Top" tried again and this time he pulverized 987, followed in a short time by 989. Then by way of a little diversion he cracked down on 1500 regulation clay birds and hit all of them. This was with a .22 automatic rifle, the first 1,000 targets being thrown at 30 feet rise, the last 500 at 40 feet rise.

'Top' throws the targets and 'Plinky' smashes them with a revolver. For years the Toepperweins appeared together

The same year Top switched from discs and clay birds to wooden blocks, 1½ inches by 1¾ inches in size. Of 5,000 of these fired upon at the Harvard Gun Club, San Antonio, the rising young Texan marksman missed only 46. He had one long run of 1165 without an error. The next year at the World's Fair, St. Louis, he raised this long run to 3507. This time instead of shooting at blocks he was firing at clay discs. The discs were the same size as the blocks but a more difficult target due to their instability in flight.

It was evident Toepperwein had the 60,000 target records of Carver and Bartlett in mind, for in 1907 he shot at 20,000 wooden blocks, sawed 2½ inches in size. During a four-day grind he came out with a bare ten blocks missed out of the total number. He had one long run of 8840 targets without a miss. This was only a warm up for what was to come later.

During December of the same year, Top moved into the San Antonio Fair Grounds with a wagonload of .22-caliber fodder, a mountain of wooden blocks (sawed this time to 2¼ inches in size) and a busy crew of carpenters who had no other job than to saw more wooden squares. In addition to ammunition, blocks, and sawmen, Top had two official scorers, two judges, and two timekeepers.

Obviously some shooting was going to be done. And it was! When the show wound up some ten days later the ammunition had all been consumed, the blocks were fit for nothing except kindling, the *(Continued on page 40)*

Primer for Pistoleers

"In one pistol match you experience every emotion known to man."

Bob Chow, San Francisco pistol shot and 1948 Olympic pistol team member

CONFIDENCE: Sure of victory in his classification, he makes a minor, 14-click adjustment before the matches start

AGONY: Hot .22-caliber case down the neck during ti fire event

DESPAIR: Shot one off the target at fifty yards

FRENZY: Forty-five jams during rapid fire match

ALTHOUGH possessing nerves of steel himself, Charles F. Waterman of San Mateo, California, realizes that occasional pistol shooters do suffer some minor pangs during competition. In this series of photos, Mr. Waterman demonstrates his own ability to conceal his emotions behind a poker-faced exterior. Although not the world's worst pistol shot, Mr. Waterman is coming along nicely and expects to be some day.

SURPRISE: Primer load. It went 'pffft'. He loads his own

APPREHENSION: Discovers he has just shot a nipper five on neighbor's target. Neighbor, who is six feet ten, and holds seven worlds records, had nothing but tens

BRAVERY: Reveals his true metal by engaging in riot over empty .45 cases. Shot his last string of rapid fire in six seconds in order to get a head start

SATISFACTION: This bronze medal has cost him $1,228.24 in entry fees, guns, ammunition, transportation, and books on pistol shooting

Paging the 6.5

BY ELMER KEITH

Obsolete? Not by a long shot! You'll still find the little 6.5 from Point Barrow to Tierra Del Fuego, from northern Russia to Capetown . . . wherever experienced big-game hunters are.

FOR MANY YEARS this country has needed a light, handy carbine capable in a pinch of killing all species of North American game. The .30-30 has been so used in the North almost since its appearance on the market, yet it leaves much to be desired. The trapper, prospector, and fisherman could use a lightweight super-accurate rifle with certain, deep penetration, which could, if it had to, account for a grizzly with well-placed hits, and one that is accurate enough for certain placing of shots to at least 150 yards.

Aside from custom-built rifles, we have had nothing that quite fills the bill. To date, and after years of experiment, the nearest approach is the little Austrian Mannlicher-Schoenauer carbine in 6.5-mm. caliber with full stock and 18-inch barrel (*see note*), with the excellent Lyman swinging-arm receiver sight. This little rifle weighs but seven pounds loaded. It has its faults, as may be expected of Austrian stock design, but it also has some advantages over any other bolt action.

First, let us look at its faults. It has a very slim stock, with a rambling excuse for a pistol grip that is usually not close enough for any but the largest hands. The stock comb is too thin, but the cheek rest usually makes it a comfortable offhand rifle. Next, the drop at heel and comb is too much for most

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NOTE—*The Mannlicher-Schoenauer with 18-inch barrel comes within provisions of the National Firearms Act, which requires registration of short-barreled shoulder arms. (This law, administered by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, requires registration of shoulder weapons with barrels less than 18 inches or, in the case of .22's, of 16 inches.) Actually, these short Mannlicher-Schoenauer barrels, while called 18-inch, more commonly measure 17.5 inches from muzzle to face of closed bolt.*

Such arms can be made 'legal' by the attachment of a muzzle brake if it is secured to the muzzle by welding or brazing. Soldered-on muzzle brakes are not acceptable under the Revenue ruling, nor are pinned, threaded or friction-fitted attachments. A simple sleeve may be used in lieu of a muzzle brake or other attachment, as long as it is fitted permanently by welding or brazing.—Ed.

men except in the offhand position. Stock length is excellent. The bolt handle is placed too far forward for fast rapid-fire work, but does give one a very close-fitting bolt handle that does not catch in the brush and that lies close to the receiver when used in a saddle scabbard. The handle, being at about the middle of the bolt, makes it well balanced. The cocking piece is heavy and gives the striker plenty of inertia to prevent primers from flowing back in the firing-pin hole. The bolt, while slower than the Mauser to operate, does have the advantage of being very flat and close to the rifle.

Next we consider the magazine of the Mannlicher-Schoenauer, the best ever placed on any bolt-action rifle and for sheer reliability right in line with the time-honored Krag. It also does not cramp as much in bolt operation as do Mauser bolts. This spool-type magazine is completely reliable. There is a separate stall for each cartridge, and I have never seen them tip up and fly out the top of the gun in operation as has happened many times with the Savage .250 model 99. The entire magazine full of hulls can be removed by pressing down on the little magazine release.

You can press the point of a bullet in the forward hole of the magazine and turn the floorplate and remove it in one piece. Next you can completely disassemble the magazine for cleaning, oiling, or inspection with the fingers alone. The safety is the conventional wing type, and is utterly positive and reliable. The top of the bridge, being cut out to permit travel of the bolt handle, prohibits low mounting of a scope, but heck, you don't need a scope on this little rifle. It is usually fitted with excellent set-triggers, though some are fitted with the single trigger. Take your choice. I prefer the set-trigger for deliberate, deadly placing of the long slugs. The fore-stock and muzzle cap is a thing of beauty when it comes to slim, trim lines, and the swivels will accommodate a good shooting-gun sling. With the set trigger action, the front, regular trigger pull is usually hard and often creepy, as is to be expected but O.K. for emergency use at close range. The entire rifle is short and well balanced and so light as to be excellent for back packing and all trips where weight must be cut to a minimum. This is also an important factor in high mountain climbing. It also makes one of the finest little rifles for the boy, the elderly man, or the woman who must have a light but accurate and deadly rifle. The trap buttplate carries the cleaning rod, oil can, and that last precious round of ammunition. The buttplate is cross checked, but would be improved with vertical lines added to the checking.

The front sight ramp is short but well designed and carries a low gold bead. The best mid-barrel sight is one with a folding leaf that can be used to check the rear sight. If the rear sight is not wanted, all you have to do is to turn it back to the left, where it will stay in position out of the way of the open barrel sight. When you need it again a flick of the thumb will allow it to snap back into shooting position. Action of the bolt handle does not turn it far enough to lock it out of the way of the open sights, and that swinging Lyman peep sight simply follows the bolt handle and springs back into shooting position when the bolt is opened or closed.

I believe it is high time an American maker brought out a modern bolt action incorporating the time-tried and excellent Mannlicher-Schoenauer magazine. The gun should have a modern bolt with the handle in correct relation to the trigger and guard for rapid fire and also of a shape that would permit low scope installation. The action should be designed for two lengths of cartridges—one action the present length and one long enough to handle much longer cartridges. If such were done and the rifle were made with both the carbine stock with full fore-stock of present design and also with a short fore-end and longer barrel for those who want such, and combined with a higher, thick-comb stock with less comb and heel drop and a shorter, larger pistol grip and cap it should be a very popular rifle all over the world.

THE MANNLICHER-SCHOENAUER 6.5

About a hundred years ago Leopold Werndl, a European gunsmith and small-arms expert, was attracted by the art of the Steyr gunsmiths of Austria, whose fame extended far beyond the frontiers of their country. In 1830 he established a gun factory at Steyr. The sound principles upon which his products were based rapidly gained for him the custom of the Viennese gunmakers, for whom he manufactured gun parts. Later he secured orders from the Austro-Hungarian military authorities.

The first sporting model to evolve from Werndl's military weapon was the 6.5-mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer. As a result of the magnificent reception it met throughout the sporting world, the factory designed other sporting cartridges, but the little 6.5 proved most popular for the majority of hunters and was even used widely as an elephant rifle.

The 6.5 Mannlicher-Schoenauer appeared in 1903. In 1905 came the 9 mm., in 1908 the 8 mm., and in 1910 the 9.5 mm. In 1908 the Sequoia Importing Company introduced the Mannlicher-Schoenauer in 7 mm. As there was a growing demand for the 7 mm., Sequoia contracted with George Knaak, who fitted 7-mm. barrels to 8-mm. actions and breech marked them '7.57, 1908'. This was done because Steyr would not make the conversion or produce the gun.

In 1922, sportsmen began to make insistent demands for a .30-'06 on the Mannlicher action and in 1924 the Sequoia Company prevailed upon Steyr to produce the .30-'06 Mannlicher. In order to do this Sequoia ordered one thousand stamped with the word 'Sequoia' and serially numbered from one to a thousand, with the year 1924 on the breech.

Even though few are now found on the market, and high-priced imported ammunition must be used, the little 6.5 is still a world-wide pet among explorers and experienced big-game hunters. One finds it from Point Barrow, Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, and from northern Russia to Capetown. Where weight is a prime factor and reliability a necessity, there one finds the 6.5-mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer.—Ray Ovington.

Now for the cartridge. Ammunition, of course, has not been loaded in this country since before the war. It is available, however, from importers advertising in the RIFLEMAN. The cartridge has long been popular all over the world, due to its extreme sectional density and great penetration. Many experienced African hunters have used it with steel-jacketed solids against elephant, and with perfect success on well-placed brain and heart shots. Bell and Forbes both used it, though Bell said the 6.5-mm. 160-grain bullet did not always have a stiff enough jacket to resist bending in heavy bone and he later went to and preferred the 7 mm. for all his elephant shooting. He killed well over 1000 of the great beasts.

I have seen the little 6.5 mm. with 160-grain soft point used on a good many mule deer, two mountain goats, one bull elk, one black bear, and a big ram. All showed the same excellent penetration and a good uniform wound channel. The long, slim slug penetrated through all but the black bear on a shoulder shot and the bull elk. It apparently killed much better than the .30-30 load, which is probably due solely to its much greater sectional density. On the elk, a hunter shot him in the right flank with the bull quartering away at 60 yards. The bull simply jumped to a run into the timber, but we did not trail him far before he had slowed to a walk which showed he was in trouble. I thought we were in for a long chase at the time but we found him dead less than 200 yards from where he had been hit by the slug from that little 18-inch barreled carbine. On dressing and skinning out the big beast we found that tiny slug had entered back of the ribs, penetrated through liver, diaphragm, lungs, and heart and was lodged, perfectly expanded, under the skin on the chest. It was expanded and folded back about half its entire length. Such penetration is much better than can be expected from more powerful, higher-velocity rifles as a general rule. I would prefer the 6.5-mm. 160-grain soft-point load for all work on our larger beasts like elk, moose, and really big bear, to any magnum .25-caliber cartridge in existence, regardless of how high its velocity, if the shooting is to be at close or reasonable ranges. I know the 6.5 will penetrate.

In the main, it's a cartridge that might easily have become much more popular for our lighter game if we had only had a reasonably-priced modern rifle made for it in this country. The fact that the Mannlicher barrels usually employ very deep grooves and high lands, combined with the relatively low velocity of 2160 feet per second, gives the little rifle an extremely long accuracy life.

I have read many reports that the cartridge and rifle were not very accurate, but such has never been my experience when I have had occasion to target or sight-in these rifles in various calibers. Art Kinnan's 9-mm. Mannlicher-Schoenauer gave me a five-shot 100-yard group with his home-grown 250-grain loads that could have been covered by a silver dollar, and this with common open sights. One carbine I sighted-in in 7-mm. caliber gave equally fine groups over the bench rest with the Lyman peep sight and front sight smoked black.

If you want a light, short, and handy little rifle for back-packing trips, close-range woods shooting, or for that youngster or woman to start with, I think the little Mannlicher-Schoenauer has a definite place in the scheme of things, in spite of its faults in stocking and bolt handle position. Give it a trial if you can find one. ♦ ♦ ♦

Colt Brevete

Continued from page 26

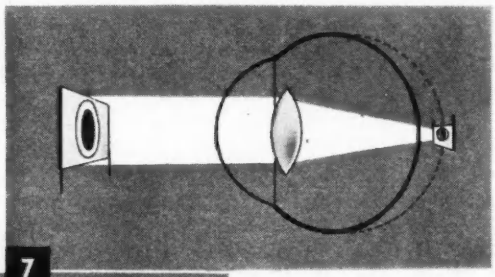
report on November 14, 1861, perhaps the last letter of his to be received by Col. Colt before the latter's death. Belgian counsel considered the patent "lost without hope, *as to the ramrod*", but expected to save the rest of it. "This done, of course Royalty money will be paid to us on our arms as before, and we will be paid for all 'bons' received in the meanwhile". The meaning of the expression 'bons' is clarified by a letter from T. J. Fales, Secretary of the Colt Company, who was in Liége visiting Von Oppen at the time. He wrote, "Within this month the manufacture of your Pistols here has been more active than usual, 19 having been stamped, and there are Bonds given for the Royalty amounting to about 2500 Fcs.—the Lawyer is sanguine that you will gain your suit and these bonds become payable."

The general conclusion which this unique documentary evidence, come to light after so many years, points for the author is that only a fraction of the so-called Belgian Colts can be considered authentic, in the sense that they were licensed by the inventor. Essential criteria are that they be well made, have Liége proofmarks, and be stamped COLT BREVETE or COLT PATENT. If in addition, they bear a maker's name (except one of the known infringers) authenticity seems assured. Thus, the author knows of specimens marked 'P. J. Fagard' or 'G. Mariette Dupont', both licensees in the regime of Devos-Sera, and a number of presumably authentic pieces stamped 'N. Gilon' or 'L. Ghaye' on the face of the cylinder. Where, however, the workmanship is poor or the barrel is not rifled, the presumption is against validity. There was little risk in forging proofmarks or stampings on such pieces to offset what they lacked in quality and according to a Belgian writer of the period,* it was not an uncommon occurrence. On the other hand, it cannot be assumed that no badly fabricated arms were licensed, as Devos-Sera was not always very discriminating.

Revolvers stamped COLT PATENT apparently date from a later period than the Brevete and those with barrels marked ADDRESS SAML COLT NEW-YORK CITY appear to have been made from parts exported to Belgium from the United States. If proof-marked and of good quality they are presumably authentic, a maker's name adding further confirmation. Arms stamped COLT SYSTEM were probably made after the expiration of Colt's Belgian patent in 1863 and hence, though proof-marked, were not licensed. The piece stamped COLT EXTRA AMERICAN, with an engraving of the Brooklyn Bridge on the cylinder, falls in this category. Percussion imitations with this engraving are known to have been made in Germany for the African trade as late as the 1930's. A final conclusion is that serial numbers are not a reliable index of the volume of production of Belgian Colts. ♦ ♦ ♦

* Henri Mangeot. *Traite du Fusil de Chasse et des Armes de Precision* (Paris 1857), Chap. 5.

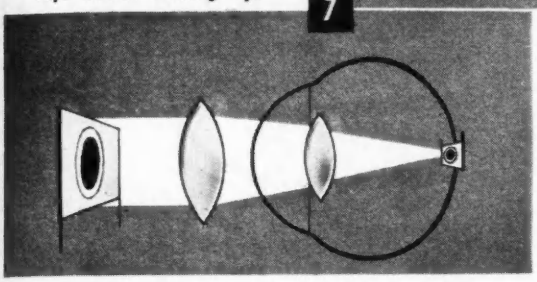
NEXT MONTH: *Look for the concluding article of Adolph Niedner's grand series of reminiscences . . . this one on famed Dr. Mann, who practically created the science of ballistics. Also, Charley Niehuis with pictures of the Calexico (California) regional pistol matches (proof positive that people can have fun though shooting), . . . a how-to-do-it trigger mechanism . . . and the concluding installment of Doc Libasci's fine discussion of shooters' eyes.*



Right: Farsightedness results when eye is too short. Light rays focus behind the retina

Below: Cure for farsightedness is introduction of a convex spectacle lens to bend rays before entering eye

7



EYESIGHT

Continued from page 13

you can lick the problem in another way. A useful device to sharpen up blurred vision resulting from poor lighting, is the diaphragm peep. This is an adjustable diaphragm which attaches to the spectacle lens by means of a rubber suction cup. In using this, cover your other eye and look through the peep at the target. Now adjust to the *smallest* opening that will let you see the target in sharp detail (Fig. 5).

So much for basic design faults.

There are three common eye abnormalities: 1) Parallel rays focus *behind* the retina because the eye is too short; 2) Parallel rays focus in front of the retina, because the eye is too long, and 3) Parallel rays form no single focus due to defects in the surfaces of the lens and cornea. These three abnormalities are by far the most common and the most important for the shooter to understand. They are referred to as refractive errors of the eye.

The first condition, where the eye is too short, is called farsightedness. The medical term is hyperopia, and it is by far the most common refractive error. As we have seen, a normal eye brings parallel rays from a distant object to a focus on the retina. The lens is relaxed, and the eye therefore at rest. In Figure 7 we see that a farsighted eye under identical conditions cannot bring the same rays to a focus on the retina through a relaxed lens because the eye is too short. To achieve a sharp focus, the farsighted eye accommodates or increases its power by thickening its lens and thus brings the parallel rays to a good focus on the retina.

For near vision the farsighted eye is even worse off. A greater degree of accommodation is necessary to bring the divergent rays to a focus on the retina, because the eye is shorter. The farsighted eye, therefore, is always straining a little for far vision (where the normal eye is at rest), and much more for near vision (where the normal eye is only moderately accommodated). This means that the ciliary muscle, which acts on the lens, is constantly at work. The result is eyestrain—pain and itching in the eyes, headache, dizziness, and blurred vision, especially after prolonged near vision. The farsighted eye does better for distant vision than for near vision, unless the error is considerable. Therefore it derives its designation, 'farsightedness'.

Treatment of farsightedness is simple. Convex spectacle lenses are prescribed of sufficient power to assist the eye lens in correcting its refractive error.

The second refractive error to be considered is that where parallel rays of light come to a focus in *front* of the retina due to an eye that is too long. This condition is called nearsightedness (myopia). The refraction and focus of parallel rays in a nearsighted eye is illustrated in Figure 6. Note that with the greatest relaxation or weakening of power of the eye lens, the light rays are still bent too sharply and focus in front of the retina, giving a blurred image. This condition is easily remedied by using a concave lens in front of the eye to diverge the rays before they enter the eye lens. In other words, the concave lens has the effect of weakening the eye lens.

For near vision the nearsighted eye does better. The rays entering the eye are divergent and they will come to a focus in a longer eye with less lens power than in a normal eye. A nearsighted eye can thus perform close work with less lens accommodation than a normal eye. Hence the term 'nearsighted'. Spectacles are usually prescribed both for far and near vision in children who are nearsighted, to place the eyes under normal conditions. Adults with low degrees of nearsightedness may be allowed to read without glasses. A nearsighted person will tend to hold print closer to the eye than normal, if uncorrected.

Finally, we can consider our third refractive error. In many eyes the lens is not perfectly round, as it should be, or it has imperfections—thick or thin spots. Naturally, light rays passing through such a lens will be distorted, and an imperfect image will be formed on the retina. When our bullseye looks egg shaped or blurs out along one side, when our sights appear askew, we should suspect astigmatism. The cure is simply to correct the error in whatever meridian it exists by the use of 'cylindrical' lenses (which bend the rays in one meridian only).

One other abnormal eye condition will complete our understanding. This is presbyopia ('old sight').

Presbyopia is a gradual change which affects every eye, commencing usually between 42 and 45 years of age. We learned that the eye focuses on near objects by altering the shape of the elastic lens by means of action of the ciliary muscle. With advancing years the ciliary muscle weakens and the lens loses its elasticity and we just can't thicken the lens for near vision.

The degree of presbyopia can easily be measured by determining the 'near point' for each eye. Fine print is brought closer to the eye until it blurs and can no longer be read. This distance is our near point and expresses the maximum amount of accommodation of the eye. In the normal eye at 10 years of age the near point is 2.8 inches; at 20 years, 4 inches; at 30 years, 5.6 inches; at 40 years, 9 inches; at 45 years, 11 inches; at 50 years, 16 inches; at 55 years, 22 inches; at 60 years, 40 inches! Presbyopia is a normal process. It is usually said to be present when the near point has reached a point more than 9 inches from the eye.

The correction of presbyopia is simply to use convex lenses of sufficient refractive power to replace the lost accommodation power of the eye. As the condition is progressive, a progressive increase in lens strength is required. Presbyopes should recheck their needs every two years, at least.

If you are in the early forties and are beginning to *(Continued on page 43)*

Variety is the spice.....

By COLONEL CHARLES F. DENSFORD

Olympic rapid-fire matches, shot in Olympic and International Shooting Union events, are fascinating to watch

I HAVE FELT increasingly uncomfortable lately over the hunch that pistol target shooting as we do it is becoming monotonous. I can't say that I have heard anyone else express that vague fear, thank goodness, but the fact that it occurs to me is disturbing enough. I don't want anything to develop which might even remotely tend to lessen interest in the game.

I don't mean to imply that I am sated with glorious victories or anything of that sort. Not even Benner and Reeves have had enough wins. But what I do refer to is that we do the same things at every tournament. In general, we shoot three times over the National Match Course with each of three guns, then pass out the medals and go home. I shall keep right on doing it, provided I can get away from my work and can afford it, until I begin to trip over my long white beard. But in some ways, it begins to pall.

There are some tournaments whose sponsors have injected new stunts into their programs, perhaps to head off any such boredom as I fear. A brief recital of some of them might be in order.

Possibly the most hilarious of these innovations is Smitty Brown's 'Yankee-Rebel Team Match', staged each year as a part of the National Midwinter Pistol Matches at Tampa. In this event, the ten high scorers in the center-fire aggregate whose birthplaces are north of the Mason-Dixon Line form the Yankee team while the high ten born south of that hallowed line make up the Rebel team. Messrs. Mason and Dixon would be somewhat surprised to learn that their surveying triumph has been extended to the Pacific Ocean, but it has to be done to include the Okies, Texans, and denizens of Los Angeles County in the Rebel Camp.

The two teams assemble on the firing line, with any and all weapons loaded for bear. At the signal they blaze away at bustible targets until all are busted. Any individual is permitted and expected to help any teammate after his own targets have been broken. This event is always accompanied by rebel yells, Indian war whoops and the like, and a good time is had by all.

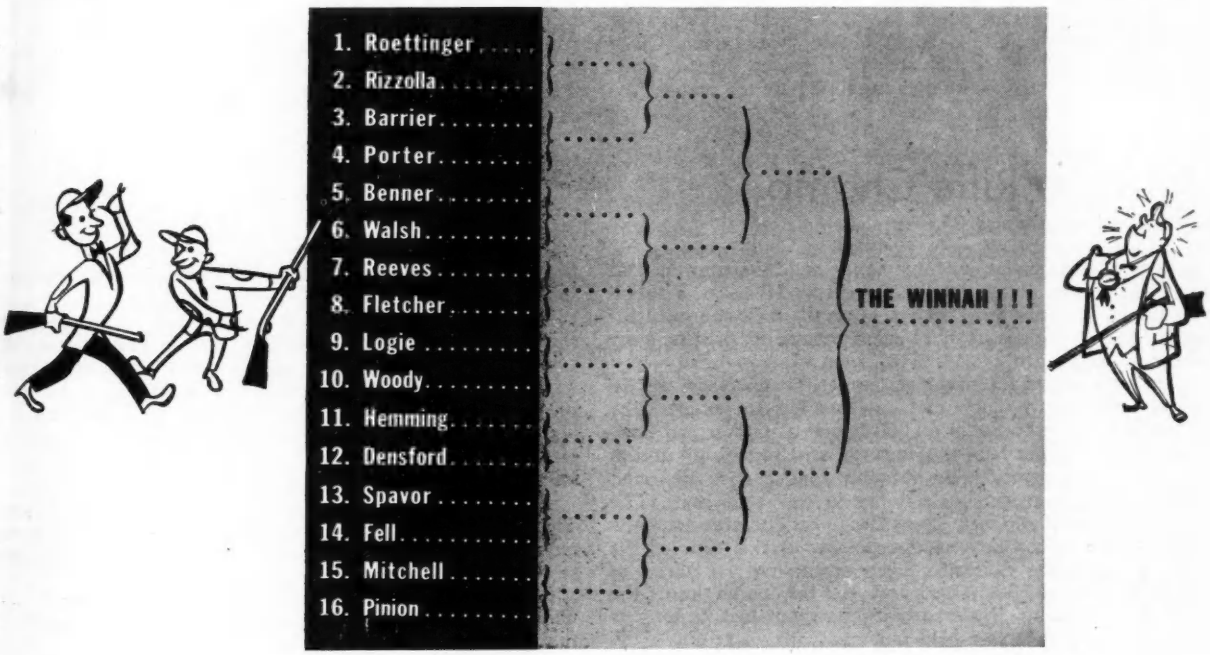
The same thing, on a slightly smaller scale, although just as noisy, is a match called 'Cajuns vs. Furriners', staged by the Shreveport Club at the Louisiana State Matches. It is strictly for fun, with no entry fee and no prizes, but it breaks the monotony in a most welcome manner.

Another variation which I like is a 'duel' type match. This match was invented by Col. (then Major) W. A. Hedden about 1939. It goes over well with shooters, as I learned when I conducted one at Dallas in 1939. Here is how it works:

Any number can play, but it works best when the number of entries is divisible by four. As an example, I have fixed up the chart on the next page to show possible pairings. These are the top sixteen shooters in the National Pistol Matches, 1949. I put the names on slips of paper, shook them up in a hat and drew them at random. They could just as well be put on cards and shuffled and drawn.

I have not ventured to predict how the different pairs would shoot with reference to each other. You stick your neck out if you like, and predict the winner.

Once the pairings are determined, the shooting starts. Each man shoots a duel with his opponent. The course of fire can be anything acceptable to everybody. When I used it, I had them shoot timed fire with .22's. Since a malfunction



One way of brightening up tournament schedules is by means of 'novelty' events such as this duel match. Here shooters are paired until only one remains

in a duel would very likely be fatal, there are no alibis in this match.

The winners in the first series are automatically paired for the second series, in which eight will shoot, half of the original sixteen having been eliminated. In the third round there are four; in the fourth round, two, and after that final round, the winner!

If each entrant puts up an entry fee, after the expense is taken out, a cash pot may be made up and split in some such manner as equal portions to those who reach the third, fourth, and fifth rounds. This puts a premium on going as far as possible.

A duel-type match can be fitted into almost any program. It has spectator interest which, unfortunately, is almost altogether lacking from our ordinary programs. I suggest Olympic rapid fire as another interesting course of fire, although it takes a little longer than some of the courses to which we are accustomed.

This brings us to a discussion of Olympic-type shooting. I am convinced that we ought to do more of it, and that space must be made for it in our regular programs. Our participation in the Olympic Games, and in the global matches of the International Shooting Union, commits us to such competition on an international scale. Therefore, we must shoot matches of that type regularly, so that our pistoleers won't be caught flat-footed when they represent the United States abroad.

Is pistol shooting as practiced in these United States becoming too monotonous? Here are some ideas from one of our best-known pistolmen

I conducted the rapid-fire tryouts for the US Team which went to Argentina in November 1949 and I gathered that fewer than ten percent of those who tried out had ever shot the course before. Can you imagine trying out for an aerial acrobatic team of F-86 jockeys without having flown an F-86? It is almost as absurd to expect a pistoleer to compete against veterans of other nations without giving him the benefit of adequate practice in the course of fire to be used.

It seems to me that it would not be much of a trick to work at least the rapid-fire phase of Olympic shooting into our tournaments. The course is a lot of fun, and I feel sure that the shooters will welcome its inclusion. It's a cinch that our pistoleers will be infinitely better qualified in international competition if they are fed a regular diet of matches fired at the silhouette targets.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the procedures in the Olympic-type matches, here is a brief description. The rapid-fire target is a bank of five silhouettes, twenty-five meters away from the firing point. Scoring areas run from ten down, placed where you might expect them to be on a man's body. The competitor stands at the firing point with his pistol loaded and ready, pointed toward the ground at an

angle of 45 degrees. When he is ready he says so, and the targets are edged. In from one to five seconds, at the discretion of the range officer, the targets are faced. In the first run, the targets remain faced for eight seconds, during which time the competitor attempts to put one hit on each. In the second run, he has six seconds for five shots, and in the third run, four seconds. The above is repeated three more times, for a total of sixty shots.

The slow-fire stage of Olympic competition is shot at 50 meters, on a target of which the 7, 8, 9, and 10 rings are black. The course is six strings of ten shots each. Thirty minutes are allowed for each string. Eighteen sighting shots are allowed, and may be fired at any time between strings.

These two courses are plenty tough, and therefore interesting. The rapid-fire course is practical, too. Add to that the argument that we need to shoot them so that our pistoleers will be prepared for international competition, and you have a pretty convincing case for their inclusion in our programs.

Then, too, you can dream up some of your own novelties. Most anything will help, so long as it can be fitted into the program and provided it doesn't interfere with the basic events by which national rankings are determined. That can be controlled by programming novelties on separate firing lines, so they won't hold up the 'regular' events. But, whatever we do, let's not let the game become dull! ♦ ♦ ♦

All-Time Rifle Champ

Continued from page 31

carpenters had blisters on their hands and Toepperwein and his assistants were completely exhausted. However, a shooting record had been hung up which has stood this almost half-century and which is likely to remain in all its pristine glory the next half century.

The announced intention of gunner Toepperwein was to fire at 5,000 thrown blocks each day for a ten-day period. Why Top did not plan to fire at 60,000 targets as Carver and Bartlett had done is not known. However, as it turned out and as the shooting progressed, he not only shot at sixty thousand targets but a considerable number in excess of that. The weather was cold and wet, it was December and even in sunny San Antonio it can be very disagreeable at this time of the year. Despite the elements, Toepperwein ran far ahead of his daily quota of 5,000 targets and after the completion of the second day's firing, it was decided to shoot just as long as ammunition and targets held out.

Although he had begun with three assistants who had no other job than to toss the tiny blocks into the air for some seven hours daily, these worthies soon suffered from such severely aching arms that Toepperwein was compelled to send out a hasty SOS for new and fresh throwers. These were rapidly recruited and in their enthusiasm quite often heaved the little blocks like baseballs, all of which put an additional burden on the tiring marksman. The throwers weren't the only people who were suffering from well-developed Charlie horses. When you consider that the rifle which Toepperwein was using weighed about 5¼ pounds and he had to raise it some six to eight thousand times daily, it can instantly be appreciated that in addition to being a test of marksmanship this marathon was a full-blown weight-lifting contest as well.

Toepperwein, in relating the details of this grind these many years later, recollects that he finally got so he could get his arms up to shoulder height but once he had laboriously raised them to this height he could not get them down again. And once he had slowly and painfully gotten them to hang normally at his sides, he could not persuade them to rise again. At night he saw flying wooden blocks during his dreams and the monotonous voices of his judges calling "Hit, hit . . .", droned in his ears awake and asleep.

Supplied with 50,000 rounds of ammunition—which, if you will remember, was the amount originally intended to be expended, and which was a lot of cartridges in those days—and furnished with sufficient lumber for 50,000 blocks, a frantic scramble began when the ammo was exhausted and it was apparent our gunner was going to establish a long distance record. All the hardware emporiums and sporting goods stores in San Antonio and environs were scraped for available .22 fodder. The supply of blocks became exhausted and Toepperwein commenced on the larger pieces. As these fragments were burst asunder he salvaged what was left of the splinters and shot at them.

At the end of ten days our shooting Texan had fired 72,500 shots at as many wooden blocks. His ammunition was all gone, his supply of wooden targets consumed, his assistants were markedly worn down, and Toepperwein was far from the chipper young hombre who had begun so eagerly and confidently a week and a half before. But of the 72,500 winging pieces of wood which had been fired upon *only nine* were *missed!*

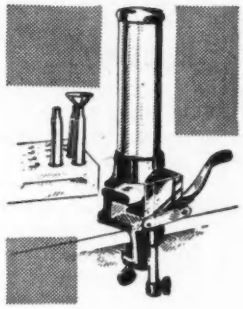
The longest run without a miss had been 14,500 targets. This score stands today as a record not only in number of targets fired upon but in number hit, and for the long run string without a miss.

During most of his shooting years, Ad Toepperwein's wife 'Plinky' was his constant companion on the range. An exhibition shooter of remarkable ability, Plinky like her husband set records which stood for many years.

One of her feats was the establishment of a record for the greatest number of shots fired in an unbroken run over regulation traps. The exhibition took place over the traps at the Montgomery (Ala.) Country Club. 'Plinky' shot at 2,000 targets, breaking 1,952, or 97.6 percent. The actual time consumed was three hours and 15 minutes; total time, five hours and 20 minutes, which included time taken up in cooling the gun barrel and unpacking targets. Mrs. Toepperwein used but one gun; she broke 975 out of her first 1,000 targets, and 977 of the last 1,000. The targets were thrown the regulation distance from one automatic trap. The score was shot in strings of 25, from five positions, under the same conditions governing all tournaments. In her first 100 she scored 96, and broke 484 out of the first 500, making a run of 111 straight. In the second 500 she broke 491, and made a run of 280, losing a sharp right quarterer which was dusted hard. In the third 500 she scored 488, her longest run being 139. In the last 500 she broke 489, and ran 106 straight. She finished strongly, dropping but two targets in the last 100. The fact that she scored more targets in the last 1,000 than in the first, was evidence of her wonderful grit and endurance.

Today Ad Toepperwein, sole survivor of the fabulous 'shooting Toepperweins', lives quietly in San Antonio. He is eighty years old. His beloved Plinky, veteran and gunning partner of his years of exhibition shooting, died in 1945. Failing eyesight has taken its toll, and Top no longer attempts the feats of old. His interest in shooting, however, has never waned. At his shooting lodge outside San Antonio his friends gather weekly for open-house shooting sessions where they blaze away at the myriad targets which Top has provided. Ad Toepperwein, greatest of them all, still can't stay away from the smell of burning powder! ♦ ♦ ♦

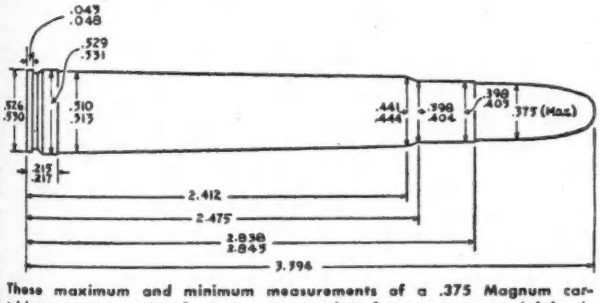
LOADS FOR THE .375



This article on .375 Holland & Holland loads is another in an important RIFLEMAN *series covering popular rifle and pistol cartridges*

Preparation of the material for the article was handled jointly by the NRA's Al Barr and the H. P. White Company of Cleveland, Ohio (see RIFLEMAN, *November 1948, page 21). Five rounds of each of the loads listed in Table 1, with powder charges measured carefully and bullets weighed to within plus or minus .15 grain, were checked for average velocity figures at 20 feet. The loads were tested for pressure in a 24-inch barrel of .368-inch bore diameter and .376-inch groove diameter, with six narrow grooves of one turn in twelve inches. They were fired in a Modern-Bond Universal receiver using Winchester copper crushers, with variation in length controlled to .001 inch, and Winchester tarage tables. Velocities were measured on a Potter electronic counter chronograph. Room temperature was maintained at 80 degrees.*

THE FAMOUS OLD British firm of Holland & Holland, Limited, were the originators of three cartridges, all of which have enjoyed varying degrees of popularity in this country. They are the .275, .300, and .375 belted rimless magnum rounds. All three cartridges are based on the same belted case, differing only in the neck design to accommodate bullets of three different calibers.



These maximum and minimum measurements of a .375 Magnum cartridge are averages of measurements taken from ten commercial loads

Most arms enthusiasts attribute the invention of the belted case to Holland & Holland, since their cartridges are the best known types which incorporate the feature. Patent research, however, reveals that British Patent No. 5592 of March 31, 1891 was issued to G. Roth of Austria covering the belted case principle. It is also interesting to note that Thomas G. Bennett of New Haven, Connecticut, applied for a United States Patent on October 3, 1892 covering the same belted case construction. Bennett's patent was issued August 15, 1893 and assigned to Winchester Repeating Arms Company, of which Bennett was president at that time.

To fully appreciate the value of the belted case one must have an understanding of much-talked-about 'headspace'. In an arm using a rimmed case, headspace is the distance between the rear face of the barrel, against which the front of the case rim rests, and the face of the bolt, which backs up the case. It is a relatively easy matter to control the manufacture of cartridge cases so that rim thickness is within the proper tolerances for such a short distance. In gun actions designed for rimless cases, headspace is much longer. It is the measurement of the distance from the chamber shoulder, against which the case shoulder rests, to the bolt face backing up the cartridge. The measurement presents some problems to the manufacturer of cartridge cases, in that he must control the shoulder-to-casehead distance within narrow limits.

The introduction of the belted case, and the chamber to accommodate it, overcame that difficulty. In actions for belted cartridges, the rear of the chamber is counterbored to receive the belted area of the case. The headspace is measured from the front of the counterbore to the bolt face, a distance just slightly longer than that for rimmed case action mechanisms. Such case and chamber construction has the major advantages of the rimmed-case type as far as positioning the chamber is concerned, and it does not sacrifice the advantages of the rimless case when it comes to magazine and feed problems. The additional wall thickness at the head of belted cases is also a desirable feature with high-pressure loads.

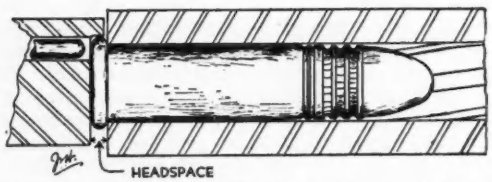
We find no records of belted cases being introduced commercially until March of 1907, when Holland & Holland brought out the .375 Holland-Schoenauer sporting rifle. It was Holland's version of a Mannlicher-Schoenauer bolt-action magazine rifle, using a two and one-half inch, .400-caliber belted rimless case necked to .375 inch. Apparently the cartridge, which carried the same name as the weapon for which it was intended, never became too popular, since little appears in contemporary writings regarding it.

About August 1912, the .375 Holland & Holland Belted Rimless Magnum was introduced. The rifle was based on one of the long Mauser actions necessary to accommodate the long cartridge. Shortly afterwards the weapon and cartridge were proclaimed by British big-game hunters as the answer to the long-felt need for an all-around gun. It still holds that reputation today in the eyes of many sportsmen, although its damage to heavy, thick-skinned game has been found wanting. In this country it has been found to be a fine cartridge for the largest of our game animals. Its popularity has surpassed that of such older favorites as the .405 Winchester.

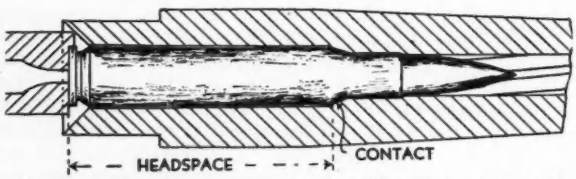
Though for many years Holland & Holland chambered the .375 in the Mauser Magnum action, their latest catalog, received in 1949, shows that they are now chambering it in the Enfield action. Just when the change was made is not known. In the United States, both Griffin & Howe and the Hoffman Arms Company started furnishing custom rifles in .375 H&H caliber about 1926. It was not until 1937 that a commercial rifle became available, when Winchester introduced their Model 70 in .375 caliber. The Model 70 rifle is still made today, and it remains the only US commercial arm on the market chambered for the .375 H&H Magnum.

HEADSPACE

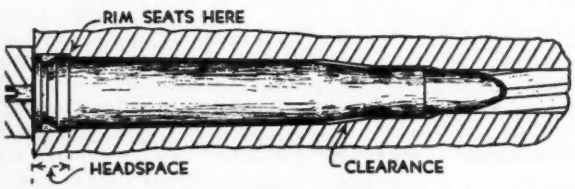
In its original meaning the word 'headspace' signified the space for the rimmed cartridge head between the rear of the barrel and the face of the bolt. That meaning still holds with .22 and other rimfire cartridges such as the .30-40 Krag or .22 Hornet. With rimless and belted cartridges, however, headspace means a measurement between the face of the bolt and some other point in the chamber against which the cartridge seats. For rimless cartridges that point is located on the tapered shoulder of the chamber; for belted cartridges it is the forward shoulder of the counterbore at the rear of the chamber. The drawings below show the points in a chamber between which headspace is measured for rimmed, rimless, and belted cartridges.



Headspace in a .22 caliber rimfire rifle is the space between the face of the bolt and the rear of the barrel for rim on the head



Headspace for a rimless cartridge is difficult to control since the cartridge seats on the tapered shoulder of the chamber



With a belted cartridge, headspace is similar to that for a rimmed case though the rim is thick and has extractor groove in it

The .375 H&H Magnum cartridge has been in continuous production in England since its introduction. In the United States the cartridges were first made available by Western in September of 1925 and are still being made today by them as well as by Winchester. The following table compares the current British and American rounds:

	Muzzle Velocity Feet per Second	*Muzzle Energy Foot Pounds*
British, 235 grain Copper Pointed	2800	4090
British, 270 grain Soft Nose Semi-pointed	2650	4210
British, 300 grain Metal Cased, Soft Nose or Westley Richards Capped	2500	4070
United States, 270 grain Soft Point	2720	4440
United States, 300 grain Metal Cased	2580	4435

As the .375 H&H is primarily a big-game cartridge, moderate loads with lead-alloy bullets have been neglected. In fact, there should be little use for lead bullet loads except in target shooting. Possibly one of the best combinations for this purpose would be either load 1 or 2 in Table 1. Both loads, according to Bob Hutton who tried them in a .375 H&H Magnum, gave very decent accuracy. With load 2 Hutton reported 5-inch groups at 200 yards and a drop of 4 inches between 100 and 200 yards—that is, the bullet landed 4 inches lower on the target at 200 than at 100. The 190 grain Kirksite bullets were cast in a special mold made by Cramer, but Cramer's bullet mold list indicates that the 9F mold is made especially for the 9.3-mm. Mauser. Bullets cast of lead and tin in this mold weigh 320 grains.

At the time pressure and velocity figures on the .375 H&H Magnum were obtained from H. P. White Company of Cleveland, Ohio, there was some difficulty in obtaining bullets of different makes, which is why most loads use bullets by Barnes, who came through with a sufficient supply for the test. Most of the bullets have a jacket material of copper tubing .035-inch thick, but as will be noted in Table 1 some of the bullets had a heavy jacket material designed for especially deep penetration. The material, I believe, is around .049-inch thick. In a comparison of pressure and velocity figures of handloads and of the commercial load, it will be noted that the handloads are relatively mild for such a big cartridge case. These loads were selected merely because they have been tried and proven quite accurate, regardless of whether or not they are extreme maximum. Usually the

Table 1: Pressure and Velocity for .375 H&H Magnum

Load	*Weight (grains)*	*Bullet Type*	*Bullet Diameter (inch)*	*Seating Depth (inch)*	*Powder Charge (grains)*	*Powder Type*	*Lot No.*	*Primer*	*Case Make*	*Velocity*	*Pressure*	*Remarks*
1	190	9F Cramer Kirksite	.375	.41	60.0	4198	30	WE. 8½	Western	2939	51,220	Accurate
2	190	9F Cramer Kirksite	.375	.41	71.0	4064	52	WE. 8½	Western	2829	41,240	Very accurate
3	250	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.43	70.0	4064	52	WE. 8½	Western	2677	46,620	Good load
4	250	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.43	65.0	4895	2192	WE. 8½	Western	2554	44,140	Mild load
5	250	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.43	65.0	4895	2192	WE. 8½	Western	2672	51,080	Near maximum
6	250	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.43	65.0	4895	27277	WE. 8½	Western	2623	52,080	Near maximum
7	250	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.43	62.0	HiVel 2	...	WE. 8½	Western	2583	46,380	Very accurate
8	250	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.43	50.0	4198	30	RA 9½	Peters	2406	48,220	No air space
9	300	Barnes Heavy Jacket	.374	.62	57.0	HiVel 2	...	WRA 120	Western	2232	41,520	Mild load
10	300	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.55	62.0	4064	52	WE. 8½	Western	2361	44,360	Accurate
11	300	Barnes Heavy Jacket	.374	.55	62.0	4064	52	WE. 8½	Western	2358	43,540	Accurate
12	300	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.55	70.0	4350	16	WE. 8½	Western	2299	40,460	Mild load
13	300	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.55	73.0	4350	16	WE. 8½	Western	2410	44,660	Accurate
14	300	Barnes .035 Jacket	.375	.55	80.0	.50 cal. MG	2539	Rem. 9½	Peters	1900	34,700	Compressed load
15	300	Commercial load	....	...	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2628	56,180	Factory load
16	300	Commercial load	....	...	....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2641	58,060	Factory load

Manufacturers' Specifications for .375

	270 Grain Soft Point	300 Grain Expanding
	Velocity, Foot Seconds	
Muzzle	2720	2540
100 Yards	2460	2290
200 Yards	2220	2050
300 Yards	1990	1830
	Striking Energy, Foot Pounds	
Muzzle	4440	4300
100 Yards	3630	3495
200 Yards	2960	2800
300 Yards	2375	2230
	Midrange Trajectory, Height, Inches	
100 Yards	0.7	0.7
200 Yards	3.0	3.5
300 Yards	7.0	8.5
	Sighting In, Iron Sights, Inches	
100 Yards	On Aim	On Aim
200 Yards	4.5 Low	5.5 Low
300 Yards	17.5 Low	13.0 Low
400 Yards	41.5 Low	49.0 Low
500 Yards	82.5 Low	94.5 Low

best accuracy is obtained when loads are kept under maximum. However, the commercial load usually shoots very well in most .375 Magnum rifles. That would indicate, therefore, that within reason many of the handloads can be increased several grains and still be safe.

There are several interesting things to note in Table 1. One in particular is load 4 compared to load 5. Everything was identical in both loads, with one exception. The shooter who supplied lot 2192 of the powder suggested that we expose some of it to the atmosphere for awhile and see how it would behave. The powder used in load 4 was kept sealed in a canister in the same room with the powder used in load 5, but the powder for load 5 was exposed to normal atmospheric conditions at a relative humidity of 50 to 80 for sixty hours. Then for forty-five minutes the exposed powder was placed near a warm radiator. The powder was then loaded and fired immediately for the pressure and velocity test. As will be noted, the charge gave somewhat higher velocity than the same charge in load 4 and noticeably higher pressure. This should serve as a caution for everyone to keep canister lots of powder tightly closed except when actually handloading. The result also indicates another reason why extreme maximum loads should never be recommended.

Noticeable also is the difference in pressure and velocity for loads 1 and 2. Apparently even with the light Kirksite bullet, a heavy load of IMR 4064 is better than the faster-burning 4198, at least in pressure and velocity ratio.

During these tests H. P. White of the H. P. White Company brought up the question as to what might happen if a relatively fast-burning powder such as 4198 were used and the remainder of the air space in the case taken up by some form of filler. Regular loose cotton was suggested. Therefore, a load of 50 grains of 4198 was selected and the air space to the base of the bullet was filled with cotton, which weighed 2 grains. As will be noted, velocity was noticeably lower than that obtained by other kinds of powder and the same bullet but pressure was noticeably higher.

A comparison should be noted of loads 10 and 11. The only difference was in the heavy jacketed bullet and bullet diameter. Possibly the slightly smaller diameter of the heavy jacket bullet used in load 11 is responsible for pressure being slightly lower than with the thinner jacketed bullet used in load 10. These two loads, as far as we can learn, are about as accurate as any which have been used in the .375 Magnum.

To duplicate factory ballistics, chances are that IMR 4350 is the best powder to use. Moderate velocity and pressure figures are noted in load 13. At least 2 grains more, 75 grains of 4350 powder, could be used safely as a starting point to develop maximum loads which will equal factory ballistics. The next possibility would be IMR 4064.

Another interesting load is 14. Since some shooters want to try that .50-caliber machine gun powder, we packed to the base of the bullet all the powder that the case would hold, and the low velocity and pressure figures definitely indicate that the powder is unsuitable with the 300-grain bullet, though it might possibly work with a much heavier bullet.

When approaching extreme maximum loads, the pressure for any one cartridge should never exceed 58,000 pounds and it is best to stay down around 53,000 to 55,000 pounds. Maximum cartridge case length is 2.85 inches and the cases can be trimmed to approximately .005 inch less.

Only a few recommended loads with gascheck bullets are to be found. One recommended that will give around 1650 feet-per-second velocity with the 278-grain Ideal 375449 bullet is 30 grains of 4759. The same charge has been used with the 255-grain .38-55 lead bullet. Probably many of the .38-55 bullets can be used in the .375 since most jacketed .38-55 bullets measure around .377 inch in diameter and are safe with moderate loads. The bullet will not stand too high velocity. One load which has been used is 42 grains of 3031, to get around 2000 feet-per-second velocity. Chances are 30 to 35 grains of 4198 would make another good load with either jacketed or lead bullets for reduced loads. Even 35 to 40 grains of HiVel No. 2 may work well. ♦ ♦ ♦

EYESIGHT

(Continued from page 40)

hold your newspaper at arm's length, you need glasses or you will soon need extensions on your arms! The age at which it starts varies with the individual, and is not always the same, but it is sure to get you sooner or later.

A few words about the numbering of spectacle lenses. The strength of a lens refers to its power of bringing parallel rays to a focus. This is called refractive power. The dioptric system is used in prescribing the strength of spectacle lenses. A lens of one diopter has a focal length of one meter. This is, it will bring parallel rays to a focus at a distance of one meter from the lens. A lens of two diopters has a focal length of one-half meter; of three diopters, one-third meter, etc. The stronger the lens, the shorter its focal length. The dioptric number is therefore obtained by dividing one meter by the focal length.

Corrections of less than one diopter are considered slight; of one to three diopters moderate, and of over three diopters very strong. Convex lenses are referred to as 'plus' lenses; concave as 'minus' lenses. Both of these types are 'spherical' lenses as they refract equally at all points. 'Cylindrical' lenses refract only in one meridian and are used to correct imperfections in lens and cornea surfaces (astigmatism).

An attempt has been made in this first part of our discussion to explain the basic structure and operation of the eye; its inherent defects, its refractive errors and their means of correction, and the changes which occur with advancing age. In Part 2, to appear next month, we will cover problems peculiar to the shooter; tinted lenses for general outdoor use and for shooting; and also give some advice on general care and preservation of our eyesight. ♦ ♦ ♦

Change SKEET? Why Not!

The growing perfection of guns, gunners and ammunition may put skeet out of business

By F. A. DOMINY

On most skeet ranges twenty-five straight targets have become dime-a-dozen occurrences. Fifty broken consecutively are almost as common. Nowadays few sizable skeet shoots are won by shooting ability. The new word is endurance. The average contest scheduled for one hundred birds is eventually decided by the victor breaking possibly two hundred or more straight clays.

All this is a far cry indeed from the skeet envisioned by its founders. Theirs was the idea that the boys would get together between game-shooting seasons, armed with the same old guns they used on quail, grouse, or rabbits, and shoot at clay targets with those weapons. With that in mind, the traps were placed and the shooting positions arranged so that the shooter would have about every variety of shot experienced in actual game shooting. There were straightaways and straight incomers, quartering shots from both directions, and two directly crossing targets. Of course the station eight shot was never a legitimate field proposition, but it served to complete the score, was tricky and a lot of fun for the beginners. It was—and still is, when made—more-or-less spectacular.

And how the scattergunners fell for this new sport! Saturday and Sunday afternoons found skeet fields busy all over the country. The members of the club I belonged to had the fever so badly that we, not satisfied with shooting Saturdays and Sundays, would pull a midweek meeting on Wednesday afternoons. We quickly discovered we were not the only ones who couldn't wait six days between shoots.

So skeet grew, mushrooming almost overnight, until every sizable town had its field. It attracted the shooters who liked its informality, so different from the preciseness and hush-hush of the straight trap squads. It drew its attendance from the ranks of the fellows with the weekly paycheck and the coupon clippers. They all had an old meat gun standing in the corner, and that, with a box of shells, was all the equipment necessary. And, as is inevitably the case when men compete in any sport, some acquired a greater proficiency than others in breaking the clay targets. And, too, from just seeing how many you could bust in a round, came the contests for prizes—which, as is also the case, soon began to be won almost invariably by a certain few.

As confidence increased, this little clique of prize winners then called themselves a team and began looking for other worlds to conquer, matching themselves against teams from

neighboring clubs, winning or losing as the case might be until they gained further reputation or lost the little they had. Those were the days when straights were a rarity, when a twenty-fiver button really meant something, and to hook two straights together for a run of fifty straight targets was almost unprecedented. Any team that could shoot for a general average of from 92 to 94 percent was good—very good. Forty-six, forty-seven, or an occasional forty-eight out of fifty was considered shooting quite capable of winning in competition, and there were several in our club who could do that fairly consistently.

At about that time there were rumors, and later an occasional published score, of a team that was really making a name for itself in those early days of skeeting, and with a confidence in our ability most unwarranted we invited them to visit and participate in a four or five team interclub shoot. Old-timers will remember that first really famous skeet squad—members of the Wildwood Club of New Jersey. Obligingly they accepted our invitation, and, like Caesar, they came, saw, and conquered. We, to whom straights were something to conjure with and remember as particular and outstanding achievements, watched them hammered out with nonchalant abandon, and their squad total for that shoot made the best of ours look like veriest beginners. But, brethren, although we took an unmerciful drubbing, what we learned was worth it. It opened our eyes to what skeet shooting actually was. It taught us an unforgettable and important lesson. It impressed us with what really were the facts of life if you intended to succeed on a skeet field. And the one main and most important fact was that, in those days, a hacksaw was the skeet shooter's best friend, aided, in some cases, by a reamer. This we had seen demonstrated. Also we had handled and closely examined the armament of that squad from Wildwood and we fully realized we were outgunned, outsmarted, and still in skeet's swaddling clothes.

Sawed-off doubles, automatics, and pumps, heavy old guns that had, no doubt, originally been intended for duck shooting—those were their weapons. Their barrels had been amputated behind the choke and the pattern they shot at forty yards would have horrified their makers, but what those barrels did to clay targets was nothing less than scandalous!

So another era in skeet began. We discarded the field guns with their improved cylinder and modified chokes and ruined, for any other purpose than skeet shooting, the guns that had been used for longer ranges and heavier loads, for we had also discovered that fifty or a hundred rounds on a skeet field could be pounded out through a heavy gun with a lot less discomfort to the shooter than when he was using the six-and-one half or seven-pound lightweight. And the sawed-offs and reamed-outs reigned.

It has always been my thought, and was at that time, that it was not the fault of the shooter that some birds were missed. I used to declare, and for that matter still do, that of the entire twenty-five targets shot at on a skeet field under present rules there is not one really difficult shot for anyone who can average consistently 92 percent or better. He knows where to shoot and when to shoot. The targets are in a groove and always the same. If he concentrates properly on his aim and timing there is but one thing to prevent his breaking the bird. That, in my opinion, was the reason for the lengthy period before straight runs of a hundred or more became fairly common. The eye of the skeet shooter of eighteen or twenty years ago was just as keen, his coordination as perfect as that of the shooter of today. His handicap lay in the fact that no matter how sure his aim, in every round a target or so was almost certain to slip through the far-from-true pattern of the skeet gun of that period. Ability being equal, the fellow with the most luck or more probably the better patterning gun captured the silverware or brought home the bacon, as the case might be.

For three or four, possibly five years, the skeeters stuck to the sawed-offs—and also stuck in the nineties. Then along came the muzzle appendages for single barrels. First, the compensator, a little later the Poly-Choke, and then came, also, the long straight runs. Even the two-barrel guns began to be manufactured with special skeet boring, and finally the experts designed a shell with a crimp and top wad they declared would eliminate almost any possibility of a blown pattern.

There we had it—an unhealthy trinity! The almost-perfect pattern, the almost-perfect shell, and the almost-perfect shooter!

To my mind it is time to break up this combination, particularly if we want skeet to continue as a game of skill, rather than of luck and endurance. I am thoroughly convinced that luck, more than skill, helps to decide the major skeet tournaments of today. As I stated before, the targets are not difficult, there is no obligation to shoot at an off-course or so-called unfair bird. You can wait until the one you call for is in the groove and have at least thirty yards in which the target is in breaking distance and its speed does not require long leads or hurried shooting. So why *should* it be missed? It is not, in my way of thinking, through the lack of skill of any of the dozens of top-flight shooters throughout the land. If Dr. Carver and Annie Oakley and the Toepperweins could hit consecutively, and up into the thousands, small blocks of wood thrown into the air, with the single bullet of a twenty-two rifle, why cannot our skeet shooters do the same thing with a scattergun at clay targets? The answer is, they could, if it were not for the very occasional slightly imperfect pattern thrown from their guns. Those same seldom-occurring poor patterns are, I am convinced, the deciding factor in the major skeet contests and shoot-offs of today. I truly believe we have no really 'best shot' among our Class AA shooters. Any one of them could break without missing all the targets he was physically able to shoot at in any one day, provided (and this is also the winning factor in most of the shoots) his gun delivers a perfect pattern with every shot.

How to get away from this almost mechanical breaking of bird after bird is another question. Changing the setup of the skeet field, with possibly longer shots, would mean another scramble for guns suitable for a different range. It would also mean expensive alterations of the fields themselves, and possibly their removal in some cases if the angles were altered. No. We will have to leave the fields alone and try something else. That something will have to be a change in the manner in which the targets are now being shot and a more rigid enforcement of pulling rules and gun handling.

At the present time there are eleven targets that are nothing more nor less than 'set ups' for anyone above the 80 percent class. These are the singles and doubles from one and seven stations, the pair at number eight, and the optional. We cannot altogether eliminate shooting from one and seven unless we double up on some of the other positions, which would undoubtedly be time-killing and lead to numerous errors, so I would only stop the single shooting from those two positions. I would cut out entirely the number eight station and shots. It is, as I have said before, but a trick shot that is soon mastered as one attains the slightest proficiency and it does not truly represent any possible or probable shot on the game field. Also, I would change the time and place for shooting the twenty-fifth or optional shot.

This would be my method: Start the single shooting at the number two station, going around to six. Then, at seven, the doubles would begin, and reversing, I would have the squad shoot them at each station back to, and including, one. Yes, shoot them at five, and four, and three. They can be broken at any of those positions and are not too tough but, I believe, a bit more difficult than the singles I would eliminate at one, seven, and eight. Also, in shooting doubles I would have it mandatory to shoot the outgoer from each station first, with the exception of four, where the shooter could have his choice. The twenty-fifth bird would be the outgoer from number two station. No optional to be shot immediately after you had missed one and the reason for missing was fresh in your memory, or, if you were straight, either of the comparatively easy birds at number one.

Then I would recommend that springing the traps, using the delayed pull, be another 'must' *all* the time. Not as now for the first twenty-five or fifty birds and then reverting to the 'pull-bang' of the trapshooters with the excuse the event must be hurried along. Last, I would make a ruling that some portion of the gun butt should show below the shooter's right elbow (or the left, in the case of his being left-handed) *until the target leaves the traphouse*, emphasizing that the arm be dropped and remain in a natural position parallel to the body, and not raised, until in the act of shouldering the gun.

With these changes I also believe a new method of handicapping might successfully be worked out. None of the present systems are satisfactory for various reasons. The added bird handicap is never fair to the scratch man, or men, for to win he has to shoot at the extreme top of his form all the time against his opponents, any one of whom may 'get hot' on that particular day and break some of the targets he has in reserve above his usual number. In other words, the scratch man can never be but one or two birds better than his normal best, and always has to be at least that, while any one of his numerous opponents, who have a greater backlog of targets to shoot at, may break many more than he ever has before and the chance of one doing so is merely a total of the number of shooters with handicaps.

The straight-target boys solved their handicap problem a long time ago by making the high-percentage gunners shoot at birds from a greater distance than those in the lower brackets. This seems to be the most likely system of them all. At any rate no one is made a present of a target. What he breaks he earns. I think that a similar system could be worked out on the skeet field if skeet could be shot as I have outlined. Take, for example, the number three, four, and five stations and either move the better shots out, yard by yard, or the poorer ones in, the present stations being the permanent points from which measurements are taken, and from those handicap points shoot both the singles and doubles. This would be giving the less skillful shot an advantage in distance and time on twelve targets, which should be helpful, particularly on those crossing doubles. Of course the question would arise as to the better or fairer method—whether to increase for the good shot what is now the standard distance, or decrease it for the poorer ones. It might be argued that if the shooting distance is increased too greatly it would not allow targets to be broken within the fair pattern of the present-day skeet gun and would necessitate the better shots rearming. This, and other objections would no doubt be made, but I am of the opinion that something satisfactory to all could be worked out.

Skeet, as it is now shot, has a doubtful future. There are too many perfect scores and too many long and tedious shoot-offs. I am almost sure my ideas of revision would help in the long run. Possibly the scores would be just as high with the present system, but possibly not. I would like to see the suggested changes given a fair trial.

Perfection quickly becomes monotonous. One hundred straights, a pitcher who always pitches a no-hit, no-run game, or a horse always sure of winning, may be very thrilling for a while, but eventually competition will be lacking, the onlookers will be bored, and any sport without attendance or rivalry will soon be no sport at all.

Because ranges cannot easily be altered, the author proposes changes in course and shooting distance to put the skeet game back on its feet

Legislative BULLETIN

A MONTHLY REPORT OF CURRENT LEGISLATION

FOR MOST STATE legislatures, the year 1950 is now history. Not expected to be a heavy year because many state legislative bodies do not meet at all in even numbered years, sixty state gun bills were presented for passage. A copy of each bill was forwarded to the NRA by a special legislative reporting service as soon as it was submitted and the bill was carefully studied for provisions that might affect the ownership of guns. Most bills were harmless; some were good. On those bills that were bad, the NRA sent eleven bulletins to fifty thousand members and asked them to voice their opinion to their elected representatives. No undesirable gun law was passed by any state.

In the breathing period between now and the legislative year which starts when the new state legislatures meet in January 1951, it would be well to consider some trends that became evident in the sessions just completed. Air gun accidents are up alarmingly, and with the publicity that invariably attends such accidents comes the demand for more controls and prohibitions. Manufacturers, dealers, and sportsmen must do some thinking about the air gun problem or these guns will be legislated out of existence; perhaps some of our guns with them. The NRA has prepared a suggested air gun ordinance which is available to any member whose city or county council is considering air gun legislation.

The advocates of strict police control over all guns are still with us. They are a little cautious because their plans have failed before, but New Jersey and Illinois sportsmen particularly have been forewarned that something akin to the Sullivan Law is being drafted for presentation to their legislature, probably next year. The US Attorney General and the Justice Department, through such groups as the National Conference of Mayors on Law Enforcement, are still trying to sell nationwide firearms registration. A bill to achieve this may appear in the Federal Congress next year.

Hunting accidents have received increasing attention by legislators. Proposals aimed at curbing hunting accidents range from criminal prosecution to fitness tests for prospective hunters. No satisfactory law has appeared but lawmakers will keep trying unless sportsmen, whose problem it is, solve it for themselves. The NRA is working through the state game commissions on a program of *education* for 'safety through skill'.

Squarely in sportsmen's laps is the problem of game law violations. Conservation commissions are going to continue to try to strengthen their hands and 'put teeth' in the laws to catch violators. The result will be more restrictions and controls on guns. The guy who beats game laws is a *crook*. The lawmaker is out to get him if the sportsmen can't.

Finally, it is apparent that the sportsman's vigilance is working against him by discouraging the attempts to get antigun laws passed in state legislatures. Antigun legislation is being driven down to the level of county and city ordinances. Such localized antigun laws are just as crippling and even harder to fight than others. Increasing local vigilance is the answer.

Make no mistake, the battle to keep our guns is not over. We've won this action—this time—but there will be another. Every NRA member is needed in the fight. The year 1951 will be a big legislative year.

California: The Office of the County Council in the county of San Joaquin has been requested to draft an ordinance which would control 'the careless use of firearms' in that part of the state. Three meetings of councilors, sportsmen, and other citizens have been held at which plans for a supervised shooting program were favorably considered. In addition, a study of existing laws in other counties was authorized, with the result that a most stringent ordinance is being considered. However, the proposed regulation has been referred to the NRA Legislative Service for comment and it is believed that an efficient and enforceable county regulation can be developed.

Massachusetts: House Bill 36, reported in May, has been consolidated into House Bill 2485, which would extend to December 1, 1950 the time for filing the report of the Committee on Conservation on certain matters including proposed changes in the hunting license law as it pertains to minors. *Action:* None.

House Bill 38 prohibits the carrying of any firearms adapted to hunting, including an air rifle, in any place where birds or mammals might be found, between the dates of September 20 and October 19 inclusive. This does not apply to the possession or use of a firearm at a recognized rifle range, skeet or trap field, or the transporting of a firearm to and from such ranges if the firearm is dismounted or in a carrying case while passing through brushland, woods, or fields. *Action:* Passed and was assigned Chapter 234 of the Massachusetts Law.

House Bill 40, reported in May, was substituted by House Bill 2465, which passed the House, but on April 24 the Senate substituted Senate Bill 608, which would provide for the punishment of those who use snares, vehicles, or airplanes when hunting, who carry deer loads in shotguns 'where birds or mammals might be found', and who carry rifles chambered for center-fire ammunition where birds or mammals might be found from one-half hour after sunset until one-half hour before sunrise. *Action:* Passed in the House and sent for the Third Reading in the Senate.

NRA-sponsored House Bill 2428 was substituted for House Bills 1376, 1377, and 1767. *Action:* Was refused by the Senate as a substitute for House Bill 1768.

House Bill 1768 would prohibit the manufacture or sale of bean blowers, sling shot, and air rifles. *Action:* Replaced by Senate Bill 626.

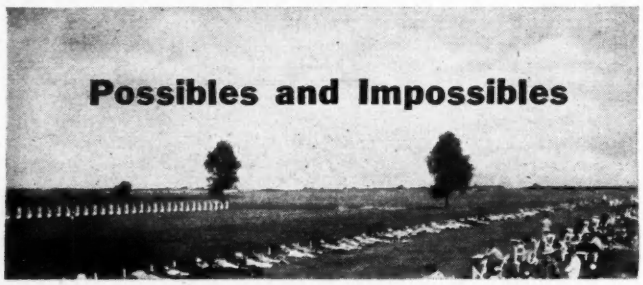
Senate Bill 626 would prohibit the manufacture of bean blowers and the sale of air rifles. *Action:* Ordered to the Third Reading in the Senate.

Pennsylvania: The Director of Public Safety of Philadelphia, Samuel H. Rosenberg, has requested that the city council pass an ordinance requiring the registration of all firearms. Director Rosenberg made his request with the comment that he would "prefer to see a state act passed, with penalties more stringent than the city of Philadelphia is empowered to impose" but that he believed a city ordinance meanwhile is necessary.

A PAPER FOR PEOPLE WHO SHOOT

Rifle

VOL. 13, NO. 6



"How would you like to own a rifle that would fire a projectile capable of attaining a velocity of 8,000 feet per second?"

One of our laboratory physicists posed this question in an article recently and then proceeded to answer it.

"Since the absolute upper limit obtainable is theoretically 30,000 feet per second," he states, "an 8,000 feet per second cartridge would seem to be a push-over—as good as on the dealers' shelves. However, before we rush out to place an order, let's take a look at some data, based on experiment, which tend to sprinkle cold water on our enthusiasm.

"First, let's look at the table below, from which it is obvious that the muzzle velocity increases as the charge weight to bullet weight ratio increases.

Limiting Muzzle Velocity

Ratio of Powder Wt. to Bullet Wt.	Approx. Upper Limit of Muzzle Velocity
0.2	2600 f.p.s.
0.3	3000 f.p.s.
0.8	4200 f.p.s.
3.2	6400 f.p.s.
5.8	7400 f.p.s.
11.0	8000 f.p.s.
22.0	9000 f.p.s.
44.0	9200 f.p.s.

Example of how ratio is obtained based on 30-06 *Springfield*

$$\frac{\text{49 grs. powder}}{\text{180 gr. bullet}} = 0.27$$

"The above table is based on using specially prepared, extremely fast powders which, of course, gave enormously high presures. In actual practice, however, slower powders must be used because of pressure limitations, and the values predicted above will be considerably higher than can be safely realized in practice.

"At any rate, it is now possible to see from this table what the requirements for an 8,000 f.p.s. cartridge would be. The ratio of charge weight to bullet weight must be approximately 11.0. If, for example, we used a light bullet like the 45 grain Hornet, 495 grains of powder would be required. Even a 50 caliber cartridge case, which ordinarily holds about 240 grains of powder, would be inadequate.

"Using the example of the ultimate in 'wildcats' (a 50 caliber case necked down to take a phonograph needle) we would have a powder weight to bullet weight ratio of about 80 to 1. Our table only goes up to 44 to 1. However, it will be noted that at the higher ratios the law of diminishing returns takes hold so that very little velocity is gained by increasing the ratio from 22 to 1 to 44 to 1. Hence, we might expect that a ratio of 80 to 1 would give a velocity in the neighborhood of 10,000 feet per second for this 'famous' combination.

"From this it is obvious that the practical limit is going to be far, far below the theoretical limit, at least as long as we stick to conventional powders, cases and bullets. Then, too, such annoying little things as pressure, barrel erosion, barrel length and recoil are going to limit our prospects further.

"It looks as though the store shelf reserved for the '22-8000' is going to remain empty for quite a while."

"Hi-Speed," "Palma," "Kleanbore," "Sportmaster" are Reg. U.S. Pat. Off. by Remington Arms Company, Inc., Bridgeport 2, Conn.

SHOOTERS G ALO

HOW EXTRA CARE AT REMINGT MAKES "PALMA KLEANBORE" BE

Bridgeport, Conn., June, 1950. Crack smallbore shooters have for years turned in higher scores with Remington's Palma Kleanbore 22's. And a

good many of them have wondered why this ammunition, that looks so much like other 22 ammunition, gives such outstanding results.

The best way to answer that question is to explain how this premium quality ammunition is made. To begin with Remington picks the best materials to put into the cartrid the real difference com way they're tested sembled.

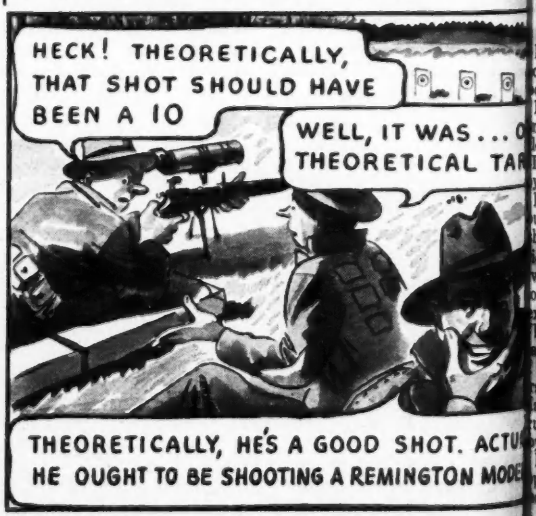
USE EXTRA CAR

Samples are con tested in the la Slowly, painstakingl component part is There can be no mista efficient, unhurried op

When the cartridge nally assembled, samp each lot are test fired. measure up to Re high standards of accu rest of the lot are pack familiar Remington boxes labeled Palma K

Make no mistake, t better 22 match am than Palma Kleanbo well worth the few c ference.

THERE'S ONE IN EVERY CLUB . . . *The T*


HECK! THEORETICALLY, THAT SHOT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A 10
WELL, IT WAS . . . O THEORETICAL TA
THEORETICALLY, HE'S A GOOD SHOT. ACTU
HE OUGHT TO BE SHOOTING A REMINGTON MODE

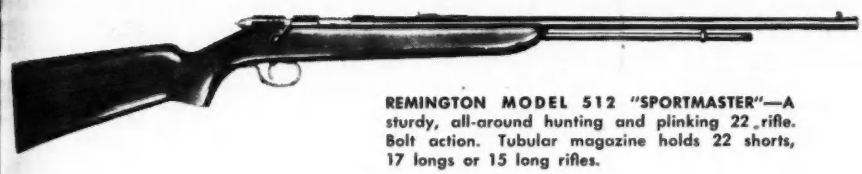
Reton News

BRIDGEPORT, JUNE, 1950

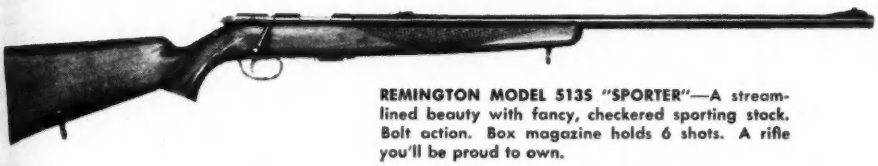
First Class Reading Matter for Rifle and Pistol Shooters

WEATHER:
FAIR TO HOT AT LOCAL TOURNAMENTS, RANGING TO TORRID AT REGIONAL SHOOTS

GED TO TAKE RIFLES FOR MORE VACATION FUN



REMINGTON MODEL 512 "SPORTMASTER"—A sturdy, all-around hunting and plinking 22 rifle. Bolt action. Tubular magazine holds 22 shorts, 17 longs or 15 long rifles.



REMINGTON MODEL 513S "SPORTER"—A streamlined beauty with fancy, checkered sporting stock. Bolt action. Box magazine holds 6 shots. A rifle you'll be proud to own.

REMINGTON MODEL 550—22 cal. autoloading rifle with famous "Power Piston" action. Only autoloader that shoots shorts, longs and long rifles interchangeably, without adjustment.

YOUNGSTERS CALLED "SECRET" OF SUCCESSFUL CLUBS

Do you know the biggest cret of successful gun club eration? It's youngsters! It takes new blood, always ming up, to keep firing lines led.

If you've a son you know that ys naturally take to shooting. If you don't have a boy of ur own, why not adopt a hooting son"? Perhaps a end's or neighbor's boy. It'll ve you more satisfaction, ore downright fun than the xt thousand X's you shoot. hat a thrill to watch a kid arn the ropes. Every triumph his . . . the first bullseye, the rst 90, the day he makes arksman . . . will give you as uch of a kick as it does the oy.

Remington makes several p-notch rifles for beginning eters. They're moderately priced, light enough for youngsters . . . yet have all the match target features.

A VERSATILE RIFLE

A good example is Remington's Model 521T. It weighs 7 lbs., comes equipped with micrometer rear sight, leather sling and modified target stock. It's fine for hunting and plinking, too. Moderately priced.

For the more advanced shooter the Remington 513T is a good choice. It's a heavy barrel, precision-made rifle with Redfield target sights, walnut target stock. There's a corrugated, anti-backlash trigger that's a real score raiser.

Think this "shooting son" idea over. It's good for your club . . . and mighty satisfying for you.

Remington Model 513T

Remington Model 521T

VARMINT SHOOTING AND PLINKING GOOD IN SUMMER

Bridgeport, Conn., June, 1950. Going fishing this summer? Or packing into the woods for a few days of roughing it? Wherever you go you'll have more fun if you take along a Remington 22 rifle and plenty of Remington "Hi-Speed" or Standard Velocity ammunition.

There are dozens of ways you can enjoy hunting and plinking during your vacation. In some states, jackrabbit and gopher shooting is good all summer. And there's always that chance shot at a marauding coyote or bob cat.

BEST PLINKING TIME

Summertime is plinking time, too. Be sure of your back-stop and, whether it's tin cans, makeshift targets or dandelion heads, plinking is a lot of fun. And it's a good way to keep the old shooting eye peeled for Fall hunting.

In case your old 22 isn't quite up to snuff you might look over some of the popular Remingtons. Autoloader fans go for Remington's Model 550. It will shoot 15 long rifles as fast as you can squeeze the trigger. Shoots 22 shorts and 17 longs too, without adjustment.

In box magazine design, Remington makes a sporter called Model 513S. And for shooters who prefer a tubular repeater, Remington has Model 512 that holds 15 long rifle 22's.

When you get the chance, stop in for a chat with your Remington dealer. You'll have more fun on your vacation if you take along a 22 rifle.

THE SPOTTING SCOPE -- June 1950

Riflemen had their innings on the floor of the House of Representatives during the long debate on the omnibus appropriations bill. Fifteen minutes of eulogies were touched off by Ohio's Congressman Burke when he sought to add $275,000 for National Matches. Appropriation committee members praised the civilian shooting game, pointing out that smallbore and pistol matches had created a broad base of interest through state, regional and national championships. They indicated the desire that the .30 caliber program be developed along similar lines with the help of the Armed Forces but without special appropriations for travel and subsistence. The added funds were rejected by voice vote.

Denver shooters have wanted a downtown indoor range for a long time. Chances are now good that they will have one municipally built. Taking advantage of a recent gay social function they invited all the city judges, recreation officials and leaders of civic groups. The shooters got two good speakers, Colonel George T. Shank, executive officer of the Army's Colorado Military District, and NRA Director John Schooley to talk about the value of rifle shooting in the fields of adult and junior recreation, combatting juvenile delinquency, improvement of national defense and the number of local voters interested in shooting. The impressed officials immediately promised to look into locations and costs. It was a masterful promotional stroke and a great deal of credit goes to Denver's pretty Lucille Bahr for shepherding the affair. . . . El Paso, Texas, will soon have one of the outstanding ranges in the world. Through the efforts of its popular mayor, Dan Duke, $20,000 was appropriated from city funds for the construction of a 50-point air-operated, beautifully landscaped pistol range. The site will be ready sometime this summer. Hard-working Harlan Carter deserves the credit for this one. . . . The rifle, pistol and skeet clubs of New Orleans, La., are now working on a plan to purchase a large tract of land to build rifle, pistol, and skeet ranges. In the meantime the city police department is building a 50-point pistol range which they will make available to as many club shooters as possible. In both El Paso and New Orleans a federation of clubs was formed to make possible the progressive plans.

Talented life-member Jim Berryman, the Washington Evening Star's political cartoonist who has written and illustrated many articles in the RIFLEMAN, was awarded the 1950 Pulitzer Prize for political cartooning. Jim is the son of the late internationally renowned cartoonist Clifford Berryman, who also was a Pulitzer Prize winner and originator of the famous Teddy Bear. The Berrymans made it the first father-son combination in the history of the awards. . . . Former NRA executive assistant Fred Hakenjos has been appointed manager of smokeless powder sales for the Hercules Powder Company. Hak takes the place of Henry N. Marsh who now has a special assignment in the Sales Research Division. . . . The 1950 sessions of the Dale Williams Shooting School for Juniors were bigger and better than ever. The Davidson, Michigan, gun-dealer started the school in 1947 and now has the backing of all the high schools, parochial schools and newspapers in his area. . . . By winning the Calexico pistol regional Captain Bill Hancock, USA, became the first trip winner to the 1950 National Championships. . . . A Miami night club whose first star was Texas Guinan, toast of the twinkling twenties, is now the pride of the Miami Police Benevolent Association. The association bought the club and its 12½ acre tract to build a pistol range and a children's playground. . . . The decision of Rockaway Rotary Club of Rockaway Beach, N.Y., to underwrite the expenses of a rifle team at Far Rockaway High School, opens up the way for the team to regain its former glory as one of the finest teams in the country. . . . The Valley Trails Pistol and Rifle Club recently registered the first pistol tournament to be held in Saginaw, Michigan in ten years. . . . Biggest shooters meeting ever held will take place this fall. . . . Of course, it's the 3rd Annual NRA Convention, in San Francisco, Oct. 2-6.

Paul Cardinal

East Dominates 1950 All-American Rifle Team With Five Places On First Squad

West Point, the 1950 Intercollegiate rifle team champion, failed to place one shooter on the ten-man 1950 All-American Rifle team as ten universities from coast-to-coast each placed one rifleman on the select group. The NRA selection board plus the votes of 60 college coaches tabbed one man from George Washington University, Georgetown, U.S. Naval Academy, Ohio State, Mass. Institute of Technology and the Universities of Vermont, Washington, Wyoming, Wisconsin and Minnesota as the outstanding marksmen in the 1950 collegiate ranks. For the first time in several years West Point and the University of Maryland failed to put at least one man on the first squad. For MIT, and the Universities of Vermont and Wyoming it was the first time in the 14-year history of the selections that they had one of their shooters honored.

The line-up for the eleventh All-American team picked since 1936: Richard K. Balinger (George Washington U), Thomas A. Breen (Vermont), Dwain Colby (Washington), Henry D. Cross (Georgetown), Raymond Engle (Naval Academy), George W. Martin (Ohio State), Jay J. Smith (Wyoming), John M. Thompson (Wisconsin), 1950 Intercollegiate Individual Champion Herbert B. Voelcker (MIT) and Henry L. Woltman (Minnesota).

On the team were four seniors, Balinger, Engle, Martin and Thompson, three juniors, Breen, Cross and Voelcker, and three sophomores, Colby, Smith and Woltman. George Martin made the team for the fourth time having been selected in 1947, 1948 and 1949. Henry D. Cross and John M. Thompson were both selected for the second time having made the 1949 team. Raymond Engle moved up from the 1949 second team while the other six men were picked for the first time. Voelcker, this year's college champion, did not receive a call for either the first or second team last year.

Dwain Colby was high man of the squad having shot an average 288.5 out of a possible 300 points over the college season. He was followed by Jay Smith with 288.0. The national intercollegiate champion Voelcker was third with 286.87, followed down the line by Richard Balinger (286.1), Raymond Engle (285.75), Thomas Breen (285.5), Henry Woltman (285.5), John Thompson (285.4), Henry Cross (285.37) and George W. Martin (285.32).

While West Point was shut off the first team it dominated the second team selections with three places. The other seven went to George Washington, Annapolis, MIT and Minnesota, who also placed a man on the first team, and San Francisco, Illinois and Maryland.

The three West Pointers on the second team were Lucien E. Bolduc, William B. DeGraff and Stewart Paterson. The other members were Allen B. Crow (San Francisco), Woodward G. Eicke (George Washington), David A. Grobl (Illinois), James Allen Kruse (Minnesota), John Niesse (Annapolis), Allan B. Tanner (MIT), and James T. Wells (Maryland).

Eicke, the 1949 national intercollegiate rifle champion, dropped down from the 1949 first team while Bolduc dropped down after making the first team both in 1948 and 1949. Crow repeated from the 1949 second team. DeGraff had been on the 1948 second team.

The top twenty shooters in collegiate ranks were picked from a field of over 3,500 college riflemen representing 180 universities. The first team received golden bullets from the NRA in recognition of their All-American status while both squads will receive certificates.

The 1950 team was the eleventh picked since 1936. No selections were made from 1943 through '46.

SUMMER LEAGUES

Summer league conditions and entry blanks have been mailed to all senior club secretaries and registered league secretaries. Only a few more weeks are left to organize and enter a league before the closing date of June 30th. Trophies, medals and brassards are awarded for summer league competition. Every registered firing league receives a trophy. State winners receive a state championship trophy plus four medals to the winning members. Second place team shooters also receive medals. In national summer league competition the winning rifle team receives a small-bore rifle. The winning pistol team a .22 caliber pistol. Also, in the national competition medals for four firing team members go down through the first five teams in each type of competition.

NRA TOURNAMENT NEWS

NRA members may place excess personal shooting equipment and accessories on the market at a minimum of expense by using the classified ads in the NRA TOURNAMENT NEWS at a flat rate of $3.00 for twenty-five words including name and address. An individual is not limited to the number of twenty-five word ads he may run in an issue.

Remittances, payable to NRA TOURNAMENT NEWS together with advertising copy should be mailed to the National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Washington 6, D. C. Ads must arrive in Washington by the *tenth* of the *month* in which they are to appear.

WARNING

Albert E. Farmer of Lincolnton, North Carolina has been convicted of violating mail fraud statutes and has been sentenced to serve three years in a Federal Penitentiary for transactions involving the sale of "Antique Guns".

DCM NOTES

A limited quantity of caliber .30 M1 cartridges has been released for sale through the DCM. This ammunition has the boattail 174.5 grain bullet with a maximum range of 5,500 yards. It is packaged in 5 round clips, 1500 rounds to a box. The price is $46.25 per M plus packing and handling and 11 percent excise tax. Not less than 500 rounds nor more than 1500 rounds will be sold to a purchaser.

HIGH POWER RIFLE RULE BOOK

The new, completely revised, highpower rifle rule books have been mailed to all club secretaries, directors and referees. Personal copies of rule books are available from National Rifle Association, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D. C. The books are twenty-five cents per copy.

The new High Power Rifle Rules will apply at the 1950 High Power Rifle Championships which will be fired at Camp Roberts, California, from September 20 to 25.

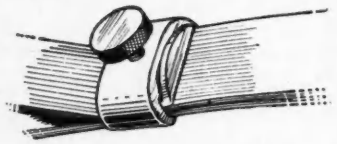
Randolph Scott displays the guns which we featured in the Warner Brothers picture, "Colt .45". NRA clubs throughout the country are helping in the promotion of the western

SURE WE TRADE!

Equipment you no longer use may help buy new things you want. *WRITE FIRST!* (naturally we can't take everything offered) We'll let you know by return mail if we can make a deal!

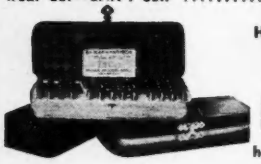
BADGER PISTOL KIT

The same rugged plywood construction as our famous rifle kit! Covered in brown Keratol—full length piano type hinge. Tray holds 4 guns with large thumb rest grips—length enough to accommodate Unertl, Argus, B&L, etc., scopes. Price (add pp for 10 lb.) w/o holder $22.50, with scope holder $27.50.



BADGER SLING KEEPER

Made of brass, polished and plated—won't wear out—CAN'T SLIP $1.00



BADGER HANDY BOX

$1.25

(Postpaid)

Holds 50 (.22 l.r.) plus full box in center

Plain box, holds 50—75¢

BADGER SHOOTING KIT

(add p.p. for 10 lb.)

27" Deluxe Kit as illustrated
27" Deluxe Kit with tray **$12.85**

MAIL ORDERS filled same day—immediate letter explaining any delay in rare cases when we don't have it in stock! ORDER BY MAIL—no "high pressure"—money back if not satisfied—FIFTEEN YEARS OF GOOD SERVICE—THOUSANDS of SATISFIED CUSTOMERS—LIFE Member N.R.A. from the start (never did pay annual dues!) is your Guarantee of Satisfaction. Lew Bulgrin, Owner.

DEPENDABLE!

BADGER SHOOTERS SUPPLY

OWEN • WISCONSIN

1950 High Power Rifle Championships At Camp Roberts, Calif., Sept. 20 to 25

The 1950 National High Power Rifle Championships will be fired September 20-25 at Camp Roberts, California. The first high power championships in ten years were made possible through the cooperation of Lieutenant General A. C. Wedemeyer, Commanding General, Sixth Army, when he made available the big army camp located about 160 miles south of San Francisco on Highway 101. The championships will start on a Wednesday and end up the following Monday just one week before the third annual NRA convention opens in the Golden Gate city. As announced before the small bore championships will be fired from September 27 to 30 and the pistol championships from September 23 to 29, taking up the slack week between the high power matches and the convention. Thus all three championships plus the NRA convention will be held in central California giving Rocky Mountain and West Coast shooters their first chance at all the big functions, in a concentrated period, without thousands of miles of expensive travel.

Betty Hutton, of "Annie Get Your Gun" and Dan London, San Francisco Chairman of the 3rd Annual NRA Convention get into spirit of things while waiting for delegates to arrive in October

Plans for the high power championships are not complete and entries are not being accepted at the present time. The match schedule includes most of the old time "name" events which are familiar to the .30 caliber shooters. The "Navy" will give the offhand shooters his day in the sun. The Surprise Fire (Camp Perry Instructors event in 1938, 1939 and 1940) is there for the hunter-target man while the last day finds the long range shooters testing their wind doping and holding in the Wimbledon at 1000 yards. Between these come rapid and slow fire events enough to fill out a well rounded program. The match schedule is quite concrete and is printed below but at present it is not known whether M1's and ammunition will be available for issue or whether the National Trophy Individual Match will be fired. It is a known fact the National Trophy Team Match will not. In all the matches the new NRA High Power Rifle Rules will govern and copies of the book may be purchased from the NRA Washington office for 25 cents.

Watch later issues of the RIFLEMAN and NRA TOURNAMENT NEWS for more complete plans as they develop. The firing schedule for the 1950 High Power Championships:

September 20
- Practice in morning
- Navy Match—200 yards standing, NRA Match Rifle
- Surprise Fire Match—200 yards Service or NRA Match Rifle

September 21
- Coast Guard Match—200 and 300 yards, rapid, Service Rifle
- Scott Trophy Match—200 and 300 yards, rapid, NRA Match Rifle
- Crowell Trophy Match—600 yards, prone, Special Target Rifle, Any Sights

September 22
- Members Trophy Match—600 yards, prone, NRA Match Rifle, Metallic Sights
- Marine Corps Cup Match—600 yards, prone, Service Rifle

September 23
- President's Match—200 yards, standing; 300 yards, prone rapid; and 600 yards prone; two divisions, one for Service Rifle and one for NRA Match Rifle

September 24
- Wimbledon—1000 yards; two divisions, one for Service Rifles and one for Special Target Rifles
- Free Rifle—300 yards; on 300 meter International target, Free Rifle

September 25
- National Trophy Individual Match (if authorized)
- NRA Rifle National Championship
  - An aggregate of scores in:
  - Navy Match
  - Scott Trophy Match
  - Members Trophy Match
- Service Rifle NRA Championship
  - An aggregate of scores in:
  - President's Match
  - Coast Guard Trophy Match
  - Marine Corps Cup Match

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COMING EVENTS

Tournaments and other important events listed below include all National, Regional and State Championships that have been registered with the NRA as of January 1, 1950. The current Gallery Rifle and Pistol Registered Tournament Schedule (available on request) lists all registered gallery tournaments that were reported to NRA Headquarters by December 1, 1949. Tournaments other than championships are not listed in this column after the publication of the seasonal schedule.

Tournaments requiring advance entries are indicated by (Adv.). Tournaments limiting the number of entries that can be accepted are indicated by (Ltd.).

OCTOBER

2-6, 1950—Third Annual NRA Convention at San Francisco, California.

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sept. 27-30, 1950—Smallbore Rifle at San Francisco, California. Programs available later from N.R.A. Office.

Sept. 23-29, 1950—Pistol and Revolver at Police Department Range, San Francisco, California. Programs available later from N.R.A. Office.

SMALLBORE REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

MAY

13-14—Far Southwestern at Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Glenn Taylor, 3110 East Manor Drive, Phoenix, Arizona (Adv.-Ltd.).

JUNE

17-18—Rocky Mountain at Cimarron, New Mexico. Mr. John O. Harrison, Cimarron Rifle and Pistol Club, Cimarron, New Mexico (Adv.-Ltd.).

24-25—Southwestern at Fort Worth, Texas. Mr. J. L. Kelly, P. O. Box 3007, Fort Worth, Texas (Adv.-Ltd.).

24-25—Midwestern at Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Howard O. Smith, Box 1395, Des Moines, Iowa (Adv.-Ltd.).

JULY

1-2—South Pacific States at Santa Barbara, California. H. Griffiths, 927 W. Valerio Street, Santa Barbara, California (Adv.-Ltd.).

8-9—Northeastern at Middlefield, Connecticut. Mr. J. Russell Lent, Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, Middlefield, Connecticut (Adv.-Ltd.).

8-9—Northwestern at Anaconda, Montana. Mr. Fred J. Mesenko, 700 Oak Street, Anaconda, Montana (Adv.-Ltd.).

AUGUST

5-6—Middle Atlantic States at Altoona, Pennsylvania. Mr. R. B. Barry, Altoona Rifle and Pistol Club, Altoona, Pennsylvania (Adv.-Ltd.)

5-6—North Central at Bristol, Indiana. Mrs. Garnette R. Horner, 1115 North Huey Street, South Bend 28, Indiana (Adv.-Ltd.).

12-13—Southeastern at Savannah, Georgia. Mr. Gerald L. Storey, 2013 Reynolds Street, Savannah, Georgia (Adv.-Ltd.).

19-20—North Pacific States at Wenatchee, Washington. Mr. C. L. Wood, North Central Washington Rifle and Pistol Club, Wenatchee, Washington (Adv.-Ltd.).

PISTOL REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

* Note change of dates.

MAY

5-6-7—South Pacific States at Calexico, California. Mrs. Margaret Poindexter, Calexico Gun Club, El Centro, California (Adv.-Ltd.).

June 30-July 1-2—Far Southwestern at Prescott, Arizona. C. J. Bender, 621 Glenwood Avenue, Prescott, Arizona (Adv.-Ltd.).

June 30-July 1-2—Middle Atlantic States at Quantico, Virginia. Lt. Colonel George R. Staffings, USMC, Marine Corps School, Quantico, Virginia (Adv.-Ltd.).

JULY

1-2—Rocky Mountain at Denver, Colorado. Mr. R. T. McCluskey, 1643 Broadway, Denver, Colorado (Adv.-Ltd.).

2-3-4—Southwestern at Shreveport, Louisiana. Mr. W. C. Alston, 736 College Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana (Adv.-Ltd.).

***15-16**—Northeastern at Albany, New York. Mr. Gilbert W. Welsh, 1291 Garner Avenue, Schenectady, New York (Adv.-Ltd.).

AUGUST

5-6—Midwestern at Des Moines, Iowa. Mr. Howard O. Smith, P. O. Box 1395, Des Moines, Iowa (Adv.-Ltd.).

5-6—Northwestern at Anaconda, Montana. Mr. Fred Mesenko, 700 Oak Street, Anaconda, Montana (Adv.-Ltd.).

25-26-27—Southeastern at Jacksonville, Florida. Mr. C. A. Brown, Jacksonville Police Department, Jacksonville, Florida (Adv.-Ltd.).

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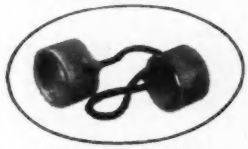

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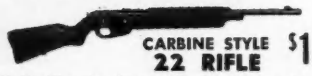

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Speer .308 110 gr. $4.25—150 gr. $4.50—180 gr.	4.75
8mm .323 125 gr. $4.25—170 gr. $4.50—.35 250 gr.	5.75
DuPont Powder 3031, 4064, 4198, 4320, 4350-1 lb.	1.80
Pistol #6, 5066. Rifle #4759—8 ounce can	1.10
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Redding Powder Scale $11.95. Ideal Tru-Line Jr.	22.00

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26-27—North Central at Flint, Michigan. Mr. Kenneth Gilman, 1330 Begole Street, Flint, Michigan (Adv.-Ltd.).

SEPTEMBER

2-3-4—North Pacific at Raymond, Washington. Mr. Malcolm B. Edwards, P. O. Box 252, South Bend, Washington (Adv.-Ltd.).

A competitors' meeting will be held in conjunction with each regional.

STATE CHAMPIONSHIP TOURNAMENTS AND OTHER REGISTERED TOURNAMENTS

JUNE

3-4 FLORIDA—Florida State Pistol Matches at Coral Gables, Florida. A. T. Kelley, Jr., 12 Alcantarra Avenue, Coral Gables, Florida.

2-3-4 MARYLAND—Eleventh Annual Maryland Revolver and Pistol Championships. Chief Marcus H. Miles, Sparrows Point Police Dept., Sparrows Point, Maryland (ADV)

10-11 UTAH—Utah State Small Bore Rifle Tournament at Layton, Utah. Ralph K. Walker, 161 Goltz Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

10-11 OREGON—Oregon State Rifle and Pistol State Championship at Clackamas, Oregon. Mr. Russell S. Cornelius, 8322 N. E. Glisan, Portland 16, Oregon.

10-11 KENTUCKY—Kentucky State Pistol Championship at Louisville, Kentucky. Harry M. Wheat, 4633 South First Street, Louisville, Kentucky (ADV-LTD)

10-11 IOWA—Iowa State Annual Pistol Tournament at Davenport, Iowa. Gene E. Taylor, 1217 Davie Street, Davenport, Iowa (Adv.-Ltd.).

17-18 CONNECTICUT—Connecticut State Revolver and Pistol Championship at Rocky Hill, Connecticut. George G. Ledder, P. O. Box 18, Rocky Hill, Connecticut.

18 MINNESOTA—Minnesota State Outdoor Rifle Tournament at Minneapolis, Minnesota. John A. Erickson, 3416 35th Avenue South, Minneapolis 6, Minnesota.

17-18 WASHINGTON—Washington State Small Bore Rifle Championship at Seattle, Washington. C. M. Styer, 120 West Hudson Street, Seattle, Washington (ADV-LTD)

17-18 MISSOURI—Missouri State Pistol Tournament at St. Louis, Missouri. Frank Stubits, 5507 Lisette Avenue, St. Louis 9, Missouri (LTD)

17-18 TEXAS—Texas State Pistol Championship at Austin, Texas. Henry H. Hankey, P. O. Box 287, Austin, Texas.

17-18 NORTH CAROLINA—North Carolina State Small Bore Rifle Championship at Conover, North Carolina. Glenn W. Sipe, Route #2, Conover, North Carolina.

17-18 MASSACHUSETTS—Massachusetts State Small Bore Rifle Championship at Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts (Cancelled).

25 NEW YORK—New York State Rifle Championship at Auburn, New York. Herman Dickman, 214 South Seward Avenue, Auburn, New York (Ltd.).

24-25 VERMONT—Vermont State Rifle Championships at Winooski, Vermont. James W. Allen, Queen City Park, South Burlington, Vermont (Adv.-Ltd.).

JULY

8-9 INDIANA—Indiana State Pistol Tournament at Bristol, Indiana. Mrs. Garnette R. Horner, 1115 North Huey Street, South Bend, Indiana.

16 VERMONT—Vermont State Big Bore Rifle Championship at Northfield, Vermont. P. H. Teachout, East Burke, Vermont.

15-16 UTAH—Utah State .30 Caliber Rifle Championship at Fort Douglas, Utah. Ralph K. Walker, 161 Goltz Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah.

15-16 NORTH CAROLINA—North Carolina State Pistol Championship at Asheville, North Carolina. D. E. Ray, Care Fred M. Molt, Box 746, Asheville, North Carolina.

23 CONNECTICUT—Connecticut State Big Bore Championship at East Wallingford, Connecticut. Mr. J. Russell Lent, Middlefield, Conn.

23 COLORADO—Colorado State Pistol Tournament at Denver, Colorado. Mr. Oscar R. Mains, P. O. Box 111, Denver, Colorado.

21-23 NEW JERSEY—12th Annual New Jersey State Pistol and Revolver Championship at Hightstown, New Jersey. Mr. Frank Svec, Box 42, Leonia, New Jersey.

22-23 MICHIGAN—41st Annual Michigan State .30 Caliber Tournament at Detroit, Michigan. Mr. Walter C. Franks, 432 East Lafayette Avenue, Detroit 26, Michigan.

22-23 MONTANA—Montana State Pistol Tournament at Great Falls, Montana. Dr. Robert E. Englert, 1405 4th Avenue North, Great Falls, Montana.

29-30 COLORADO—Colorado State Championship Small Bore Tournament at Fort Collins, Colorado. Mr. H. W. Stagelman, 525 City Park Avenue, Fort Collins, Colorado.

29-30 MICHIGAN—Michigan State Pistol Tournament at Milford, Michigan. Mr. Walter Lamoria, 135 Kassine Drive, Brighton, Michigan.

Dope Bag

answers by THE RIFLEMAN'S PANEL OF EXPERTS

Julian S. Hatcher • Al Barr • Elmer Keith • M. D. Waite

HOW TO MAKE A PAPER PATCH

I am considerably interested in the old-time guns, but there are a few of the wrinkles concerning them that I'm more or less fuzzy on. One such item is the old paper-patched bullets. Would you be so generous as to give me the dope on just how paper patches were made and installed? What cartridges in particular were they used on? What was their special advantage, need, or necessity over the ordinary unpatched bullet fitting case?—G. R. VERNAM, Junction City, Oregon.

Answer by Elmer Keith: The paper patch was the forerunner of the modern metal patch and enabled one to load soft bullets without fear of stripping as the hard bond paper used gripped the rifling well. Also, patch bullets are easier cast perfect than grooved ones. I have seen patched bullets in about all calibers from the .25-20 up to the 3¼-inch big .50 Sharps. I still use them for my Sharps reloads. They do not pick up sand or grit as do all lubricated grooved bullets if any grease grooves are left out of the case, and they are superbly accurate.

The patches are made from a good grade of paper—bond writing paper will do—cut diagonally, wet with the tongue or a sponge, and rolled on wet.

To patch a bullet, hold the point of the bullet in the fingers of the left hand and lay the tip of the wet patch on the bullet with point of patch nearest the left fingertips. Twirl the bullet, rolling the patch on smoothly and evenly for two full laps of paper, then twist up the tail and that is all there is to it. After drying thoroughly, the paper tail is left curled up in a hollow base or snipped off close to a flat base.

8-MM. BRENNEKE

I have recently acquired a German Mauser rifle which is chambered for an 8 x 60-mm. cartridge. Can the 8-mm. shell which is made in this country be used in my rifle?—PERRY J. PANFELY, Little Falls, New York.

Answer by General Hatcher: Your 8 x 60 mm. Mauser probably is what is known as the 8 mm. Brenneke, though there is another 8 x 60 mm. sometimes seen which is called the Magnum because it holds a little greater charge of powder.

The common 8-mm. Mauser shell that can be bought in stores cannot be used in either one of these guns because it is only 8 x 57 mm., that is, it is 3-mm. shorter than the 8 x 60 mm. It is possible, however, for a handloader to make up 8 x 60-mm. cartridges by using ordinary .30-'06 brass and expanding the neck, cutting off 3 mm. and reloading his own.

K-222 REMINGTON CARTRIDGE

Lysle D. Kilbourn, Whitesboro, N. Y., informs us that he finds it impractical to rechamber the standard Remington 722 rifle to the blownout version of the K-222 cartridge. The barrel should be set back one turn, rechambered, and reheadspaced for a perfect job, and he does not recommend this. Mr. Kilbourn informs us that the Winchester Model 70 and the Model 54 Winchester Hornet work beautifully well when rechambered and converted to handle this new, interesting cartridge. With a rifle which has seen a lot of service in Hornet caliber, the throating is reamed out and lengthened to give rejuvenated life with the new Remington case.—A. H. B.

THE 3-DRAM STANDARD MEASURE

Errors do creep into the finest and most carefully edited magazines. So, here I am to point out what might prove a serious error—the definition of 'dram' on page 5 of the April issue of the RIFLEMAN.

A dram avoirdupois is a unit of weight equal to 1/16 ounce or 27.34 grains. But the dram used in loading bulk shotgun powders is a unit of volume. DuPont's booklet "Smokeless Shotgun Powders" gives (on page 9) the following on the 3-dram standard measure:

"Smokeless powder was invented during the evolution of the shotgun from a muzzle-loader to the arm of today, which is breech-loading and which fires fixed ammunition. The first successful smokeless powder was that made by what is known as the Schultze process. This powder was intended to be loaded on the same bulk-for-bulk basis as blackpowder; i.e., a charge of 3 drams of smokeless by volume could be used with the same load of shot to develop approximately the same results as would be expected of 3 drams of black powder. Naturally, the method of loading fixed ammunition required the use of a more accurate amount of powder than was the case with the old muzzleloader, even though smokeless powder was being loaded on a bulk-for-bulk basis. This need for a standard charge cup led to the development of a standard 3-dram measure. This cup or machine was developed many years ago by the old Union Metallic Cartridge Company. The operation of the machine is comparatively simple in that a charge cup of fixed size is placed beneath a large container and mechanically controlled by slides which allow the powder to fall from the large container into the standard powder cup. Additional slides strike off the powder so that the charge cup is filled exactly level. The dimensions of the 3-dram cup were determined as follows:

"As there are 256 drams in one pound avoirdupois, or 7,000 grains, in 3 drams there would be 82 grains. It was, therefore, necessary to make a cup which would hold 82 grains of blackpowder. By retaining a constant diameter and varying the length, the volume of the cup necessary to hold other weights was readily determined.

"As the density of smokeless powder is less than that of blackpowder, it follows naturally that the weight for the same volume is less. On using the standard 3-dram measure with various types of bulk smokeless powders, it was found that the weight of these powders ran from 33 to 42 grains instead of 82 grains as with blackpowder. It is for this reason that some powders, especially in foreign countries, are known as 33-, 36-, or 42-grain powders. This means that if a 36-grain powder is loaded by weight, the same charge will be used as if it were loaded by the 3-dram charge cup."—WALLACE H. COXE, DuPont's Burnside Laboratory, Penns Grove, New Jersey.

SWISS AUTO PISTOL

I would like to add the following information on the Swiss Neuhausen SP 47/8 pistol to that which appeared in the December 1949 issue.

Charles Petter was the inventor of the French Model 1935A. He did not develop the Neuhausen Models SP 44/16, SP 44/8, and the present SP 47/8. Neuhausen engineers did the work. Neuhausen holds the rights for all countries, except France.

Along with the 15-shot SP 44/16, Neuhausen also made an 8-shot model called SP 44/8.

The 9-mm. Luger cartridge is now the official pistol cartridge of Switzerland. The SP 47/8 is furnished with 7.65-mm. barrels because of the huge stocks of 7.65-mm. ammunition still available. By changing spring, magazine, and slide, the SP 47/8 can fire .22-long rifle.

It is my personal opinion that the SP 47/8 is the best pistol made to date. With the .22-long rifle Neuhausen, friends of mine have outshot the Woodsman. The grip, balance, and pointing are perfect, including the sights. I used one for three months last summer.

Holland has also adopted the SP 47/8. In tests conducted in Denmark and Holland the SP 47/8 licked the Belgian Browning HP pistol hands down.

Several other powers are seriously considering the adoption of the SP 47/8. It looks like 9-mm. Luger cartridges will be universal shortly.—WILLIAM PIZNAK, New York, N. Y.

JAP AND ITALIAN RIFLE LOADS

The tables below contain information for handloaders which has not been available heretofore—pressure and velocity data on loads for three foreign rifles, the 6.5-mm. Italian Carcano, the 6.5 Jap, and the 7.7 Jap. Obtained from a reliable source, the data contain average pressure and velocity figures obtained from firing ten consecutive shots per load, though several five-shot tests were made.

The information must be used with caution, since the quality of both Jap and Italian rifles vary, and a load which will be safe in one arm may not be safe in another. However, if the data below are used as a guide, other loads may be worked up safely.—A. H. Barr.

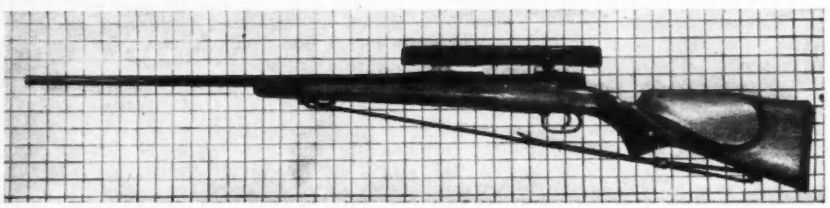
Bullet	Diameter (inch)	Load (grains)	Powder	Lot	Primer	Average Velocity	Average Pressure	Maximum Pressure
6.5-mm. Jap								
158 H Mantel	.262	32.0	4895	27277	WRA 120	2310	36,570	41,000
158 H Mantel	.262	34.8	4895	27277	WRA 120	2460	47,000	48,800
158 H Mantel	.262	37.0	4895	27277	WRA 120	2566	51,170	54,800
137 Spitzer	factory load					2442	45,800	
6.5-mm. Italian Carcano (.276 Pedersen Cases)								
158 H Mantel	.262	27.6	Lightning	35	WRA 120	2171	35,100	38,400
158 H Mantel	.262	36.1	4895	27277	WRA 120	2422	45,400	48,800
7.7 Jap (Reformed .30-'06 cases)								
180 Speer S.P.	.311	45.0	3031	92	WRA 120	2639	48,830	53,800
180 Speer S.P.	.311	45.0	4895	27277	WRA 120	2570	42,175	47,000
110 Barnes S.P.	.308	50.0	3031	92	WRA 120	3127	33,060	37,200
125 Barnes S.P.	.308	53.0	4895	27277	WRA 120	2910	36,480	41,600
182 FMJ	.310	42.5	Flake	Jap Factory load		2387	44,680	47,000

FEATHERWEIGHT SPORTER

Several years ago work was begun on as lightweight hunting rifle as could be built which would give decent accuracy. The .250 Savage was the cartridge it would be chambered for.

The rifle was made around a custom-built action with receiver of round stock similar to Remington's 721 by Terhaar Gun Works, P. O. Box 3204, Jacksonville 6, Florida. We asked Pfeifer Rifle Company, 11252 Penrose Street, Roscoe 8, California, to give us the smallest, lightest barrel they thought possible, yet maintain practical accuracy. It is 24 inches long and tapered to ½ inch at the muzzle. To maintain rigidity we had the stock, a nicely proportioned one, made up of laminated wild cherry and walnut by John Himes, 7306 Park Dr., Baltimore 14, Maryland. We selected the good little 2½X Leupold scope, with Buehler steel rings which had to be attached to special steel bases, to be fitted to this special action. The completed rifle, with sling, weighs only seven pounds four ounces.

Terhaar action (above) from which 7 pound sporter (below) was made



The little featherweight gives practical target accuracy, some groups fired from it being under one inch at 100 yards. Using the Modern-Bond bullet No. 257730 weighing 89 grains with 14½ grains No. 4198 powder, it will shoot one-hole groups at 50 yards. It is a squirrel rifle deluxe.

Now the Terhaar action is available in single-shot form only, without the magazine cut in the bottom of the receiver, with a right- or left-hand bolt using either rimmed or rimless cartridges. The price of the action is $65.00. —A. H. Barr.

CHARGE FOR .44 COLT

What was the original service charge developed for use in the Colt Model 1860 .44 caliber percussion Army revolver?—Ned Conway, Los Angeles, Calif.

Answer by M. D. Waite: A charge of 25 grains FFg black powder was used behind both the conical ball weighing 212 grains and the round ball weighing 146 grains. This is a service load and is not necessarily the most pleasant to shoot.

RELOADS FOR 9.3 x 74R

Can you give me any loading data on 9.3 x 74R double rifle using the original 9.3 x 74R cases, Berdan primers and 285-grain bullets?—Burl A. Tillman, Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Answer by Elmer Keith: I have never reloaded for the 9.3 x 74R cartridge, but it is quite similar in many respects to the .375 Nitro Express and the .400-360 Westley Richards, both of which I have reloaded for a good bit.

I would advise starting with a charge of 50 grains of No. 3031 DuPont powder, as the 9.3 x 74R is a rather straight case. Also you could start with 52 grains of No. 4064 and a standard seating depth. Cases should be full-length resized for all double rifles so they will drop in freely and extract as easily as possible and not place undue wear in the hinge pin.

The standard velocity of 9.3 x 74R is 2600 foot-seconds, so it's a powerful hot load.

In the .375 Nitro Express, a shorter case, I use 48 grains of No. 3031 and the 300-grain bullet. In the .400-360 Wesley Richards, I now have the load up to 48½ grains of 3031 with 314-grain bullet and British Berdan primers. It may be necessary to increase this load another grain, but impact of both barrels is nearly together at 60 yards.

I think you will have to reach 55 grains before you get up to standard velocities, and probably more, but start with 50 grains of 3031 or 52 grains of 4064 and work up slowly—a grain increase at the time—until you bring your load to exactly same impact as the factory load, then stop. It should be a peach of a hull to load. Let me know how you come out.

FA NO. 26 PRIMER

Our local rifle club recently secured through the DCM some FA No. 26 primers. These have proved very satisfactory, but some of our members have asked a question about them which I cannot answer. The question is: Are these primers corrosive or noncorrosive? With the old workhorse FA 70 primer, one was never in any doubt where he stood. It was a mighty good primer though a rifle had to be cleaned after using it, but one is not sure with the No. 26.

If the 26 turns out to be as good and as lasting as the No. 70, I'll be happy, be it corrosive or noncorrosive. I'm at present using a lot of FA No. 70, purchased in 1938, which was stored from 1940 to 1946 in a hot, dry place in southern Arizona. It was stored near the ground and the termites ate the boxes off. The primers still give close groups with the .30-'06. In fact, Frankford has been making good primers for much longer than the 70 has been in existence for I have some .45-70 FA cartridges loaded by Frankford in 1886. If fired in an old Springfield with that powerful lock, they will go every time, though I admit they don't go so well in my Pacific Ballard, but after all they are 63 years old.—Gordon Bess, Canon City, Colorado.

Answer by General Hatcher: In designating primers by numbers, it is necessary to distinguish between the number of the primer mixture and the number of the finished primer.

FA primer No. 26 is for the .30 caliber, No. 27 is for the .45, and No. 28 is for the .50 caliber. These numbers refer to the finished primer and not to the mixture used in them.

The FA No. 26 primers you purchased from the DCM were loaded with the FA No. 70 mixture. That mixture, as you know, is not a noncorrosive mixture. However, it is nonmercuric. Therefore, after shooting ammunition loaded with that primer you should clean your gun with water or else with an aqueous cleaning solution that will dissolve chlorate residues.

PRIMER POCKET CLEANER

Mr. G. J. Henninger of the Cramer Bullet Mould Company, North Hollywood, California, has come through with a simple, handy device for primer pocket cleaning. It works very well. The mouth of a .30-'06 cartridge case is clamped in a vise and approximately ½ inch of the neck and shoulder is flattened. Then the sides of the flat mouth are filed until it is a snug fit inside the primer pocket, whether it be the 1.75 or 2.10 inch size. By springing apart the lips of the case mouth and squaring them off, a fine primer pocket cleaner is obtained. It is an excellent gadget to replace the conventional sharp-edge screwdriver which we have been using for years.—A. H. Barr.

8-MM CARTRIDGE IN .30-'06 CHAMBER

For many years now we have been reading of the danger of blowing up a .30-'06 rifle by using an 8-mm. cartridge in it. Colonel Whelen made the warning years ago, and ever since I have not been able to get a bolt to even start to close on such a combination. If one measures the cartridges and compares the '06 neck dimensions, he can readily see they will not go—by .008 to .011 inch—which is quite a lot of squeeze with the hand.

I should like to get the actual facts in the case. Just because one .30-'06 rifle will accept 8-mm. loads is not proof that it is common.—VERNOR GIPSON, North Salem, Indiana.

Answer by General Hatcher: We agree with Mr. Gipson that an examination of the standard cartridge and chamber dimensions indicates that it would be difficult or impossible to close the bolt on an 8-mm. cartridge inserted in a .30-'06 chamber. However, the combination of an oversize chamber and a minimum size cartridge can evidently permit it to happen.

In November 1921 I was asked to determine the cause of the bursting of a rifle fired by Pfc. Thomas H. Appleby of Sandy Hook Proving Grounds in which the firer lost his eye. When the rifle was received by me at Springfield Armory, it had part of the fired cartridge case still in the chamber. When this was removed it turned out to be a German 7.92-mm. military cartridge.

Experiments were at once made and it was found that in some cases these cartridges could be inserted in Springfield rifles and when fired, very excessive pressure resulted—sufficient to burst rifles in which any weakness existed.

A similar case occurred in Fort Benning on October 27, 1925. Still another at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, August 19, 1926; another at Camp Glenn, North Carolina, July 13, 1927.

Records of accidents of this kind were discontinued in 1929, but the very last accident recorded occurred at Braintree, Mass. Involving Springfield rifle No. 801548, it was due to the firing of an 8-mm. German cartridge in the rifle.

We have also received several reports of damage to lever-action model 1895 Winchesters from the same cause.

Like Mr. Gipson, we have tried many, many rifles of .30-'06 caliber in which we could not insert a German 8 mm., but the above recorded instances show that it can occasionally occur.

ANIMAL CALL

I have received a circular advertising animal calls which states they will call nearly any meat-eating animal, particularly coyotes and foxes. Do you know whether or not this product will work?—WILLIAM A. LETSON, Red Cloud, Nebraska.

Answer by Elmer Keith: I used to call pup coyotes in early October of nights just to have the little devils gather around my cabin in the sagebrush and serenade me. Also, I have answered many, and gotten them to answer me, until I could locate them after daylight and kill them. I never knew of any animal call that would call all these things. One might work but, as the Scotchman says, I have me doots. Even if it does work, I imagine that, like an elk bugle, one would have to live with the game for many years in order to use it right and not scare everything

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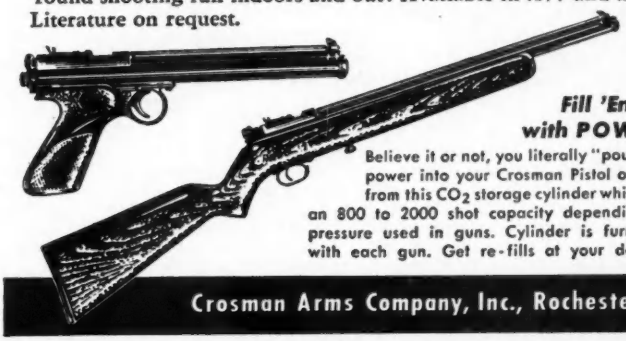

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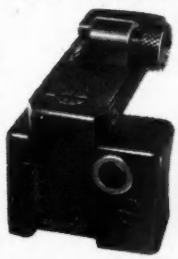

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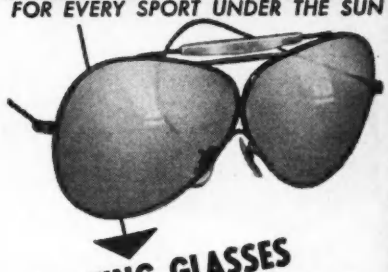

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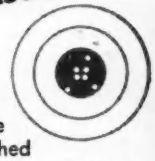

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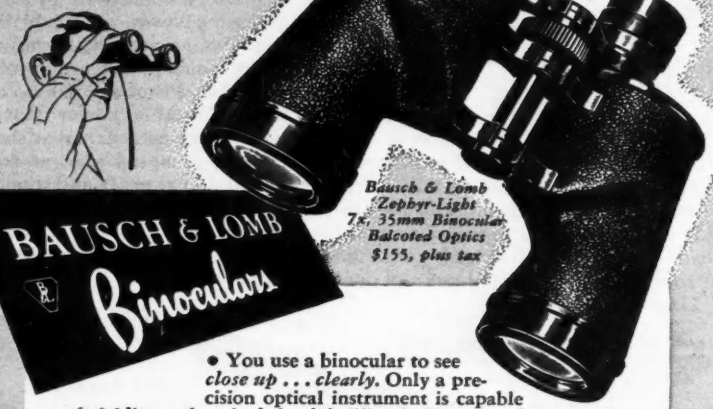

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away. It may be a sort of bleat like a stricken or caught rabbit, in which case it should attract small meat-eaters, but I cannot say for sure as I know nothing of the product in question.

HOMEMADE PROOF LOADS

I wish to make up my own proof loads in several different calibers using DuPont 3031, 4198, Hercules 2400, and Unique.

Could the powder charge for a proof load be arrived at by adding a certain percent of powder above the maximum charge as given in Belding & Mull and Ideal Handbooks for the bullet being used?—D. L. SHAFFER, Mercer, Mo.

Answer by General Hatcher: Fairly satisfactory proof loads can be made by adding five percent by weight to the maximum recommended charge. That is, if the maximum charge were 50 grains, 2½ grains would be added.

Obviously these proof charges should only be fired with the shooter behind a barricade where he would be safe in case anything happens. Moreover, they should be made up only as needed or else should be plainly marked (say with red nail polish) to guard against accidental use.

CARBON DIOXIDE GUNS

One of the biggest objections to pneumatic guns is that they must be pumped continuously for six to twelve times in order to provide adequate power for the skirted pellets of .177 and .22 caliber. One way to overcome this difficulty is to use carbon dioxide to power these guns. Until recently carbon dioxide was stored in a cylindrical container which hung from the barrel just forward of the trigger guard on such rifles, and it was a makeshift affair. We have been shooting several carbon dioxide guns, both rifle and pistol, which have several outstandingly convenient features.

The Crosman Arms Company, 15-53 Henrietta Street, Rochester 7, New York, is now making both rifles and handguns with an auxiliary carbon dioxide chamber which holds enough gas to fire a number of shots merely by cocking the rifle or pistol and inserting a pellet.

A gas reservoir is provided in both the Crosman gas pistol and gas rifle. The pistol will hold enough liquid CO_2 (carbon dioxide) for at least 50 shots, and the rifle will hold enough for approximately 100 rounds. These guns are charged from a cylinder of liquid CO_2 of the type sold in gas stations for inflating tires or extinguishing fires.

The liquid gas has the property of maintaining a uniform pressure at any given temperature as long as any liquid gas remains in the reservoir.

Shooting these gas guns, we learned that when the chamber becomes almost empty the point of impact will be lowered slightly, but otherwise they are extremely accurate. Shooting at 25 feet we obtained exceptionally fine groups with both the gas pistol and gas rifle.

The Crosman air pistol is the best balanced gas pistol we have fired. However, it deserves a better trigger pull. The one we tried had at least three or four creeps in the pull and, by the time the trigger was released, it was difficult to know exactly where the shot was going. But in spite of this handicap, very fine groups were obtained. The shape and design of the grips show that the Crosman people have some idea of what a pistol

should be like for satisfactory handling.

The Crosman rifle needs a better rear sight. The open rear sight on the gun we tried was of the crudest form. And our test would indicate that the rifle is accurate enough to warrant a much better and more finely adjustable rear sight. An aperture rear sight with proper adjustments is a definite requirement for this very fine gas rifle.

We also tried a Schimel gas pistol powered by the readily obtainable carbon dioxide .3 ounce containers sold in drug stores for charging siphon bottles. The Schimel pistol shoots exceptionally well, but in .22 caliber it is useful only for around 20 to 23 rounds. The cost of the dioxide containers, 8½ cents each where we bought them, plus the cost of the pellets, makes shooting it rather expensive for an air gun. Otherwise the pistol is very similar to the well-known Luger in balance, weight, and feel. The new Schimel gas gun even has a trigger pull of the long, snaky, creepy type typical of the Luger.

Both the Schimel and Crosman gas pistols will drive the .22-caliber pellets to their entire depth in a piece of soft pine board. The gas rifle, with a completely filled chamber of liquid carbon dioxide, will penetrate fully ¾-inch soft pine. There is an adjustment feature on the Crosman which allows the amount of power to be controlled by turning a knob at the back end of the bolt. A minimum adjustment gave a penetration of ¼-inch depth in soft pine with the full power and of ¾ inch with completely loaded chamber.

Crosman has a Targlite backstop, for use at 25 feet with air guns, which is satisfactory for any of the .177, .210, or .22 pellets which these guns fire. By installing a 75 or 100 watt light bulb in the stop and using targets of a special paper, the shooter can easily spot the hole made in the target by each shot.

The price of the Schimel pistol, obtainable from Schimel Arms, 12270 Montague, Building No. 28, Pacoima, California, is $20.—A. H. Barr.

WEAK PRIMERS

In reloading for the .38 Special I have been having trouble with one particular load. It is a hunting load, used in a K-38 S&W, consisting of the Keith Ideal hollow-point bullet sized .358 and 11.5 grains of No. 2400. Five or six shots out of fifty have been bad. The primer failed to ignite the powder, although it drove the bullet into the throat of the barrel. The powder was a compressed cake and driven forward with enough pressure to leave powder grain imprints on the base of the bullet.

What's wrong with the load?—Henry A. Wilhelm, Saratoga Springs, New York.

Answer by Elmer Keith: Your trouble is primers that are not hot enough to fire 2400 right. Long ago I found that only Remington and Winchester large-diameter primers seemed to fire this powder right. Also, your load is a bit light for good combustion, and I would advise using 12 grains in the K-38 and 13.5 grains in the heavy frame models. Try Remington .38-44 cases and primers and I think your 11.5 grains to 12 grains will fire regularly and accurately. Get the large size .38 Special primer or the .38-44 Remington case and primer.

6.5 X 57 MM.

I have a German sporting rifle 6.5 x 57 mm. As ammunition for this rifle is hard to find, would it be practical to have it recham-

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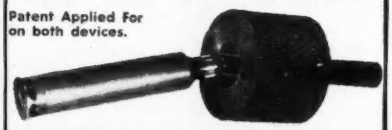
Patent Applied For on both devices.



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Springfield 45-70 Gun sling, used		.30 "
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Mauser headless shell extractor		.50 "
Confederate Enfield bayonet		.45 "
Confederate web sling		1.00 "
Confederate nipple protectors, dozen		1.00 "
Russian Rifle Rod 28½"		1.00 "
5½" flint lock plate with pan only		.60 "
8MM Mauser Cartridge box. 1888 Model		.35 "
Springfield Mod. '42 main spring		1.25 "
Springfield Mod. '42 bayonet		1.00 "
Springfield Mod. 1821 main spring		1.25 "
Springfield Mod. 1821 bayonet		1.50 "
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bered for .257 Roberts?—C. R. SNOW, Rome, Georgia.

Answer by Al Barr: Your rifle already has a chamber which is practically a duplicate of the .257 Roberts, but the .257 Roberts cartridge cannot be used in it because the bore is the wrong size. The bore for the .257 Roberts is .250 inch and grooves are .257. In the 6.5 the bore is .256 inch in diameter and the grooves are .263 inch.

Your best bet is to purchase ammunition from some well-known handloader such as J. W. McPhillips, 285 Mastick, San Bruno, California.

Of course, if you so desire, you can use the Roberts cases and handload with 6.5-mm. bullets.

LOADS FOR SHOTGUN SLUGS

Being unable to find any information elsewhere on the subject, I would appreciate some loading data for shot shells using 12-gauge rifled slugs. I use Red Dot powder and No. 209 primers.—HENRY NESS, Willmar, Minnesota.

Answer by Elmer Keith: In the 12-bore paper case, I would recommend 28 grains of Red Dot with about 78 pounds pressure on the over powder wad and the case folded over in a good crimp on top the slug.

OLD ARSENAL RELOADS

Among the stuff left by a friend who died was a mass of .30-'06 cartridges, old stuff in bandoleers. Some of it was the oldest '06 stuff I have ever been able to add to my collection. One was marked FA3-'06 and the other FA6-'06. The curious thing is that I finally gave in and pulled the 6-'06 bullet to see what powder was used. I'm unhappy! The powder looks like Pyro D.G. and is in perfect condition. These are arsenal loads, with copper primer and purple lacquer.

When I brought out *Complete Guide to Handloading* in 1937, all powder information was carefully checked by DuPont, Hercules, and the arsenals, and showed that Pyro D.G. came out as 1909 military, although it was developed in 1908. What then was loaded in these original '06 loads?—PHIL SHARPE, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Answer by General Hatcher: Up until World War I the Army saved all brass from firing lines and returned it to Frankford Arsenal where that in good condition was reloaded. The reloads were then issued as regular ammunition. The practice was discontinued because of malfunctions in machine guns during the early part of World War I. Undoubtedly you have some of the old arsenal reloads.

MAXIMUM CASE LENGTH

I should be very grateful if you would tell me the maximum case lengths for 8-mm. Mauser, .22 Hornet, and .45-semiautomatic cartridges.—EDWIN A. HARTMANN, White Plains, New York.

Answer by Al Barr: The maximum cartridge case length for the .22 Hornet is 1.403 inches. For the .45, maximum length is .898 inch, and maximum for the 8 mm. is 2.24 inches.

NEW PRODUCTS

Gun wiping cloth made by Silicote Corporation, P. O. Box 381, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, gives complete rust protection in the coldest weather to any object it is used on. Guns and other tools wiped carefully with the Silicote gun and tool cloth appear to be perfectly dry,

but a very fine film of Silicote is spread on which is claimed to be impervious to fingerprints and other salt corrosion. We have been using the Silicote gun and tool wiping cloth, and results have been quite satisfactory. List price for this Silicote wiping cloth is 89¢.

Low-priced .22-caliber autoloading pistol, named the Challenger, has just been announced by Colt's Manufacturing Company. Designed to sell at $52.50 retail, it will be available in two barrel lengths, 4½ and 6 inches. We have not had the opportunity to examine and test fire the model as yet, but specifications and photographs indicate that it conforms quite closely with the current Sport and Target Models.

The Challenger is chambered for the .22 long rifle cartridge, both regular and high-speed. The ten-shot capacity magazine is held in place by a clip latch located just below the back strap. Grips are of Coltwood plastic, deeply checkered. Sights are fixed.

Adaptor to permit the use of Lyman Ideal reloading dies in Pacific, Hollywood, and similar reloading tools is made by Arthur C. Boyce, Route 9, Box 132, Salem, Oregon. The price is $3.40.

Lead-alloy bullet lubricant designed to be painted on the bearing surfaces of bullets will be marketed soon by Lyle Batchelder, Lancaster, New Hampshire. After the lubricant dries, bullets are ready to be seated in the loaded cases. A somewhat similar lubricant has been found practical, in many cases eliminating leading problems.

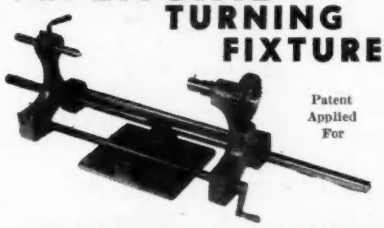
Rifle barrels made by Christy Gun Works, 575-57th St., Sacramento 16, California, are earning the firm a reputation as a manufacturer of accurate rifled tubes. The record so far speaks for itself. We have one barrel in .250 Christy caliber which has already made a .265-inch group at 100 yards in a bench-rest match. The .250 has a rifling twist of 1 turn in 13 inches to stabilize bullets up to 100 grains weight. It is phenomenally accurate and gives no indications of metal fouling. The barrel is made with a tight chamber and case necks must be reamed. This is the so-called Neidner type of loading and when properly done it produces exceptional results, although usually at the expense of increased pressures.

Christy .30 caliber barrels have also made phenomenally small groups in competition. In one match the .30-caliber Christy barrel placed five consecutive groups in ¾ inch at 100 yards. This kind of accuracy speaks well for a firm specializing in super-accurate barrels.

Ventilated rib for a shotgun barrel is available from Simmons Gun Specialties, 1428-30 Walnut St., Kansas City 6, Missouri. Anchored on the gun at the breech end only, the rib is dovetailed into the rib supports on the barrel. The manufacturer claims that such construction keeps the rib straight and true, no matter how hot the barrel gets from firing, and that expansion and contraction of the barrel occur independently of the rib. Additional information and prices on rib installation can be had from Simmons Gun Specialties.

Reamers and headspace gauges are available from Otto Fritz, Arcadia, Michigan. Prices are quite reasonable, the gauges listing at $3.75 each (a set of three for $10.00) and reamers for popular calibers at $12.50 each.

Rex ENGINE TURNING FIXTURE



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See "Dope Bag", May 1950, page .....

REX Engine turning tool with 3 tips $2.50. Extra tips 3 for 25¢. Dozen 60¢.

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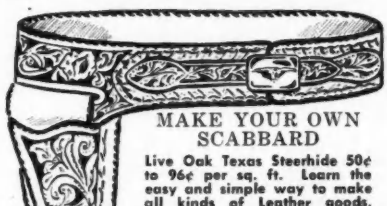

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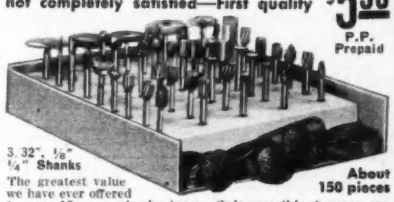

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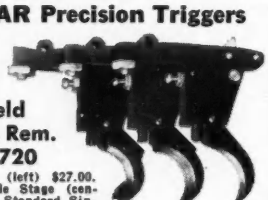

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Telescope mounting bases of various heights are being manufactured by J. Unertl Optical Co., 3551-3555 East St., Pittsburgh 14, Pa. Some of the bases are nearly two inches long with two mounting positions for the scope mount, and are usable on bullpup rifles. Included is a special rear base to fit the odd hole spacing on the receiver bridge of Model 721 and 722 Remington rifles.

For special purposes, various shapes of the base stock are available in unhardened lengths up to 12 feet, rolled to .005 inch oversize for final broaching to shape.

A convenient chart, showing pertinent measurements of all scope bases, is available from Unertl Optical Co.

Heavy-duty bullet trap is being produced by the Wire Rope Products, Inc., Hamilton, R. I. Equipped with a carrying handle, the trap has an opening of 16½ inches. It has been tested thoroughly with .22-rimfire cartridges and with handgun cartridges up to and including the .45 ACP. So far no real damage has been done to the bullet trap with the full-patched .45 bullets.

GUNSMITH TRADE DOPE

Mr. Albert O. Bayer of Bayer's Gun Shop, 213½ South Second Street, Walla Walla, Washington, advises that the shop has been enlarged and is now prepared to give prompt service converting Model 99 Savage rifles to .300-caliber and Jap 7.7-mm. and 6.5-mm. rifles to .300 Savage and .257 Roberts.

Iver Henrickson, 1211 South Second Street, Missoula, Montana, can be recommended as an excellent stocker to those who want the finest in inletting and dense fine-grained French walnut. He will make any desired form in plain or fancy-grained French walnut.

Becker & Kearfott, Water Street, New Rochelle, N. Y., has installed special equipment to do barrel relining work. Probable prices are around $37.50, although they may run higher depending on the type of work to be done.

Philip J. Medicus, 18 Fletcher Street, New York 7, New York, has announced a price reduction on some amunition for obsolete and foreign rifles. Also, Medicus has for ten cents a special catalog on hunting, camping, and firearms accessories, which he says are surplus but not reconditioned, meaning that they are in usable and serviceable condition.

Lee Warren, 354 College Ave., McMinnville, Oregon, announces that he will grind and fit a lens in a disc for use with iron sights by those requiring correction for the sighting eye. Anyone who needs a corrective sight should have his eye examined by a registered optometrist and send the lens prescription to Warren. Price of the Warren lens fitted to a Merit iris shutter is $19.25.

Continental Arms Company, Inc., 697 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y., have available for one dollar a new Czech ammunition catalog covering about all continental calibers. The ammunition is available, we understand, in this country.

Arnold Silva, 52 Tilton Avenue, Kittery, Maine, a specialist in restocking rifles to very

light sporters, has remodeled a model 70 Winchester to weigh only 7¾ pounds complete with scope and mount. The sample of Mr. Silva's stockwork we have seen was quite satisfactory from inletting to shaping, finishing, and checkering.

William P. Spofford, Route 4, Box 10G, Pensacola, Florida, has a new Peel peep sight for Savage model 1899 rifles which may be installed by merely removing the existing dummy screws in the tang of the model 99. Adjustable for windage and elevation, the little sight is priced at $4.50.

Right-side safety, for use on Japanese rifles, which locks the trigger sear is being made by L. B. Miller, Big Bear Lake, California. Installed by drilling and tapping two holes in the bottom of the Jap receiver, its retail price is $7.95.

Robert S. Thomas, the Tommy-Dot man, has advised us that his sales store and optical repair shop has been combined under one roof. His new address is 8402 Fenton Street, Silver Spring, Md.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE PRACTICAL BOOK OF AMERICAN GUNS

By Captain John Houston Craige

If you know someone who, though interested in guns, does not know too much about them, recommend that he read this book. It will explain to him in detail the target shooting games, tell how he might learn to shoot accurately either the shotgun or the rifle, inform him of all phases of hunting, and explain the games of skeet and trapshooting.

The reader will also learn of the variety of guns made in America today and get some information on the price range and quality of different models. The chapter on ammunition alone is enough to clarify some of the misunderstanding he might have about caliber designations and give him some insight into the meaning behind such terms at .30-30, .5-3000, and .45-70-405. The two chapters on gun safety and the care of guns will be valuable to anyone who happens to read them.

More important, the book gives the reader something of the romance of guns in American history. The first chapter begins, "The founding fathers selected the eagle as the national emblem of the United States, but I have always felt that they should have picked the gun instead. As far as I know, no eagle has ever done anything for our country, but the gun is what made America tick. . . ." Then follow several excellent chapters on the role of guns in American history, in both sport and war.

This book is a practical book on guns in that reading it will enable a person to orient himself in a field which is notoriously confusing to those outside of it. As the author points out in his preface, shooting today resembles a university with no catalogue of its activities. He submits this book as one, and excellent it is.

But one criticism—it is to be regretted that the publishers did not have this book proofread by someone familiar with firearms in order that some errors of detail could have been eliminated. For instance, .30-'03 is used interchangeably with .30-'06. The 'power' of guns —which means nothing specifically—is rather haphazardly discussed. And a statement is

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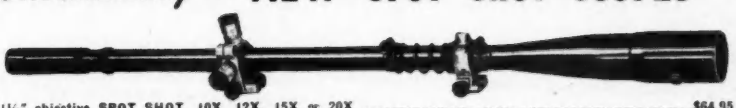

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Complete with mounts, dust caps, recoil spring (less bases)
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These new scopes are precision made, have COATED OPTICS, NEW ¼ min. click mounts, and sliding-sleeve objective focusing adjustment. These scopes are made to fill a long felt need for a medium priced target scope that will really fill the bill. The "SPOT-SHOT" scope, with our NEW mounts, will give fine results in either target shooting or vermin shooting. Our new mounts have several mechanical improvements and finer finish. Write for our new literature.

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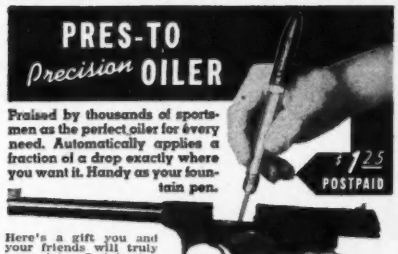

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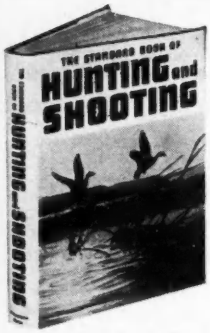

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The culmination of 15 years research and 40,000 rounds of experimentation, this reloader is fast, durable, and reasonable in price. Complete, ready for crimping meter.

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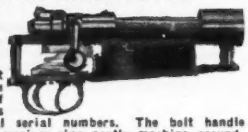

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Installing in your rifle, add $10.00

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One turn in sixteen inches

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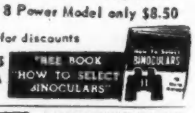

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made that the British Enfield, the French Lebel, and the Russian Noisin-Nagant are the best European bolt actions for conversion; nothing is farther from the truth.

Everything considered, *The Practical Book of American Guns* will make an excellent volume to keep in a club library as recommended reading for new members and as a source book of general information on shooting in America today.—J. A. HARPER.

(Published by the World Publishing Company, Cleveland, Ohio. 452 pages, illustrated. Available through the NRA Book Service. Price $4.95.)

COLT ROOT MODEL 1853

By John J. Fluck

Because of their popularity with arms collectors, the various Colt revolvers are about to become the best-documented of all American firearms. Latest addition to Colt literature is this 24-page monograph published by Dexter, which details differences between various types of the little side-hammer Colt revolver. The author describes a prototype which he calls the model of 1853, and classifies the 1855 arms in six types. Detailed photographs, some of them better-than-life-size, make identification according to the author's classification an easy matter.

A word is probably apropos about the cost. Three dollars for 24 pages plus covers sounds like highway robbery when compared with the price of, say, this magazine with 96 pages and four-color cover for about a tenth of that sum. Consider, though, the fact that well over a quarter million copies of the RIFLEMAN are printed. We have no idea how many of this monograph have been printed. Certainly only a few thousand, perhaps even a few hundred, will be the extent of its circulation. Those figures make all the difference; limited editions, whether so labeled or otherwise, will always be expensive when compared with a mass-production product. To anyone knowing production costs in these days, three dollars for this and similar monographs of limited circulation represents not an attempt to gouge the purchaser but actually, rock-bottom pricing of a luxury item.—JOHN SCOFIELD.

(Published by F. Theodore Dexter. 24 pages, 8½ by 10¾, illustrations. Available from the publisher, P. O. Box 399, Topeka, Kansas. Price, $3.00.)

THE MODERN SHOTGUN

Volume II: The Cartridge

By Major Sir Gerald Burrard

First published in 1931, Major Burrard's three volumes on the shotgun tower above the few other works in print on scatterguns as a practical explanation of the technical aspects of shotguns. With the reissue of this volume, revised to include mention of such new developments as the crimp closure instead of the overshot wad, the entire work again becomes available to shooters.

Volume II discusses in detail the making of the components which go into a complete shot shell. Approximately half of the volume is devoted to a study of the ballistic properties of velocity and pressure.

Volume I on the gun and Volume III on the gun and cartridge may be had from the same source as this volume.—J. A. HARPER.

(Published by Herbert Jenkins, London. 315 pages, illustrated and indexed. Available through the Arms Collector Service, 6844 Gorsten Street, Philadelphia 19, Pennsylvania. Price, $5.00.)

THE ARMS CHEST

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

1. Rate: 25 cents per word including name and address—minimum charge $3.00. Advertisements *must be accompanied by remittance*, addressed to "The Arms Chest," American Rifleman, made payable to "National Rifle Association"—1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington 6, D. C. *Insertion will not be made until payment is received.*

2. Closing Date: All advertisements must be received with advance payment by not later than the 1st of the month preceding date of issue. (Example: July 1st for the Aug. issue. Ads received after July 1st and not later than Aug. 1st will be inserted in the Sept. issue.)

3. All Ads Subject to These Conditions: We reserve the right to edit all copy to conform with our standards and to reject or discontinue any advertisement which we consider undesirable.

4. Transactions Based on Good Faith: Deliberate misrepresentation, or violation of the codes of good sportsmanship and good business ethics, will constitute grounds for refusal of advertising, and may result in disbarment from N.R.A. membership.

5. Blind Ads Not Acceptable: Blind ads, with box numbers *only*, will not be accepted. Give your COMPLETE name and address, to insure prompt delivery of all mail or telegraph replies.

6. How to Count Numerals, Etc.: Groups of figures are counted as one word (example: .30-30, 250-3000, $150.00, $1.50). Abbreviations consisting of initials or single characters are counted as one word (example: W. H. Smith (W. H. counts as one word); H. B., meaning heavy barrel, etc.; W. H. and H. B. are one word) Hyphenated words are counted as two words (example: 20-gauge, pearl-handled, no-slip).

7. No Responsibility for Illegible Copy: The publishers are not responsible for errors in printing advertisements, due to illegible copy; type or print clearly all ads.

8. All Articles to Be Properly Described: To avoid misunderstandings the condition of every advertised article should be described in accordance with the following definitions, NEW—not previously sold at retail, in same condition as current factory production; NEW—DISCONTINUED—same as NEW, but discontinued model. The following definitions will apply to all SECOND-HAND articles: PERFECT—in new condition, in every respect; EXCELLENT—new condition, used but little, no noticeable marring of wood or metal, bluing perfect (except at muzzle or sharp edges); VERY GOOD—in perfect working condition, no appreciable wear on working surfaces, no corrosion or pitting, only minor surface dents or scratches; GOOD—in safe working condition, minor wear on working surfaces, no broken parts, no corrosion or pitting that will interfere with proper functioning; FAIR—in safe working condition but well worn, perhaps requiring replacement of minor parts or adjustments which should be indicated in advertisement, no rust but may have corrosion pits which do not render article unsafe or inoperable; POOR—badly worn, perhaps requiring major adjustments or repairs to place in operating condition.

9. WARNING TO PURCHASERS: The publishers *will accept no responsibility* for *any* unsatisfactory transaction involving articles which have not been described in accordance with the foregoing NRA standards. Purchasers or traders should therefore insist that sellers give clear descriptions of all articles, in accordance with these standards—*before* any transactions are consummated. Purchasers should also request shipment by express C.O.D., *with examination privileges;* the purchaser may (and should) then examine the shipment in his local express office—if unsatisfactory the article will then be returned by the express company to the shipper, at the latter's expense.

10(a). The National Firearms Act forbids the sale of the following: (*a.*) Full automatic machine guns. (*b.*) Rifles and shotguns with barrels less than 18 inches in length or 16 inches in the case of a weapon of .22 or smaller caliber. (*c.*) Handguns such as the Mauser or Luger automatic pistols, when such weapons are equipped with detachable butt stocks, except that all of the above may be sold by a Federal licensed dealer who has paid the special tax required by Section 3260, Internal Revenue Code. NOTE:—"Barrel length", as it applies to the above, is determined by the insertion of a cleaning rod from the muzzle until it comes to rest against the face of the closed breech.

(b). In addition, the NRA has adopted a policy of not accepting advertisements covering small *pocket* pistols or revolvers of less than .38 caliber, or with barrel lengths of 2 inches or less, which have no practical value as target, police or military weapons.

11. Fair Trade Laws: Advertising will not be accepted for articles to be sold in violation of Fair Trade laws, after the manufacturer has advised the NRA that such violation exists.

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A.B.C. BULLETS, 30 CAL. 125 GR., $4.25. 150, $4.50. 180, $4.75. 25 Cal., 87 gr. $3.50. 100, $3.75. 120, $4.00. 27 Cal., 100 gr. $4.25, 130, $4.50, 150 $4.75. Agents Wanted—Our ammunition catalog 50 cents postpaid. Shell Shop, 3709 Sunset Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif.

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PERCUSSION COLT & REMINGTON PARTS. Flint and percussion locks. List 25¢. C. H. Weisz, 100 S. Uhle Street, Arlington, Virginia.

NEW MODELS 5E, 4E, ITHACA TRAP guns, 43 Hornet, Bee, 70, Hornet, Swift, Robert's, 270, 30/06, 300, 275 Magnum's, 141, Remington's, 99, Savage, 250, 3000, 300, Large selection guns, rifles, Handarms, Scopes. Price free list 10¢. Overly's Gun Rack, Ephrata, Penna.

BIG CATALOG, ANTIQUE GUNS, $1.00. 475 photographs. Satisfaction guaranteed. G. B. Hebard, Knoxville, Illinois.

ELECTRIC PENCIL: ENGRAVES ALL Metals $1.25 postpaid. Beyer Mfg., 10511-Z Springfield, Chicago 43.

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"We're Growing—thanks to you!

"Our first ads in the 'Arms Chest' section produced so many orders from consumers and dealers we expanded our facilities and are now running a sizeable schedule of display ads in *The Rifleman*—with excellent results!"

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And the cost of these classified ads is extremely low—only 25¢ per word, for a well-distributed *national* circulation.

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Copy for the August issue must reach us not later than July 1st. See above for detailed instructions.

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Micro Open Sight Set for Springfield and Enfield. Set consists of a Front Sight Band having inside diameter of .600 to .645 in .005" steps, with gold bead blade sight; and Rear Band in 2 sizes (Splfd or Enf) with either semi-buckhorn or flat-top sporting rear. Finished and blued, ready for installation.

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Precision machined and hand finished. *Two Types.* Top—For rifles with Dovetail Ramp Front Sights. In 1/32" steps from ¼" to 17/32". Furnished in round, gold bead only. $1.75 each.

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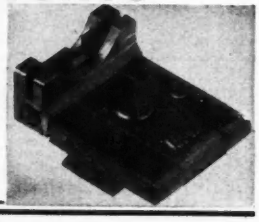
All Pistol & Revolver Repair Work, and Rebluing.
Write for Catalogue of Sights and Improvements.



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Positive Locking

All Models **$2.00**

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Custom Bluing. Write your wants.

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Big Run **Pennsylvania**

OUT-OF-PAWN "SHOT-GUNS", "RIFLES", "Pistols". Write needs, No list. Enclose stamp. Virginia Pawnbrokers, Danville, Virginia.

OREGON RED MAPLE BURL PISTOL GRIP Blanks. Beautifully matched pair thoroughly seasoned—ready to work. Size of each half: 3½" x 5½" x 1¼". $1.50 pr. postpaid anywhere in U. S. Send order and check to Beaumont's, 600 N. Bdwy., Coos Bay, Oregon. No C.O.D.'s please. Satisfaction guaranteed.

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WINCHESTER MODEL 52, HEAVY BARREL rifle with Redfield Olympic Front Sight and Redfield Olympic Micrometer Rear, condition like new, $95.00. Winchester Carbines, cal. 30-30, surplus stock, like new, $55.00. Winchester Model 70 Super Grade Rifle, cal. 220 Swift, Ramp Front and Lyman 48 WJS Rear, $157.20. Berretta, 6.5 Military Service Carbines, as issued, excellent condition, price $19.50. New 1950 catalog of Firearms, Gov't Surplus & Sporting Goods. Send coin 25¢. Public Sport Shops, 11 S. 16th Street, Philadelphia 2, Pa.

NEW STANDARD GRADE STOCK FROM Winchester Model 70; 30-06; swivels and butt plate $18.00. Dr. E. Kogan, 2480 86th St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

RIGBY 303 DOUBLE RIFLE, CASED, EXcellent, cost $1,000.00—Sell $100.00. 6.5 Mannlicher Schoenauer, excellent $125.00. Smith Bros. Gun Store, Rochester, Pa.

VOM HOFE EXPRESS, 5.6x61, ENGRAVED Mauser, D.S.T., ribbed barrel, beautiful stock, excellent, $125.00. Charles Yerlow, 35 Pryor S.W., Atlanta, Georgia.

GERMAN HAMMERLESS 16 X 16 X 8 X 57R x 27" mount bases, "Very Good" $100.00. Zeiss Zeilacht 8 power with side mount complete "Excellent" $125.00. Thomas E. Smith, Atlanta General Depot, Atlanta, Georgia.

NEW RIFLES, IMMEDIATE DELIVERY—Prepaid and Insured. Remington #721 Bolt Action 270, 30-06 calibres $79.95. #721—300 Magnum $89.95. Remington #722 Bolt Action 222, 257, 300 Savage $74.95. Remington #81 Autoloading 30, 35, 300 Savage $129.95. Remington #141 pump action 30, 32, 35 calibres $104.95. Winchester #70 Bolt Action 22 Hornet, 220 Swift, 257, 270, 30-06, 250/3000, 300 Magnum, 375 Magnum $109.50. #70 Super Grades same calibres $162.50. Winchester #64 Lever Action 30-30, 32 Special $82.95. #64 DeLuxe Grade 30-30, 32 Special $97.75. Winchester #71 Lever Action 348 calibre $91.10. #71 Super 348 $105.00. Winchester #43 Bolt Action 218B, 22 Hornet, 25/20, 32-20 $54.95. #43 Special same calibres $66.95. Winchester #07 Autoloading 351 calibres $126.95. Savage 99EG Lever Action 250/3000 and 300 Savage $96.45. Savage 99R—Lever 300 calibre $99.00. Money Order or Check. Write for Free Gun List and Illustrated Literature on gun you want. Discounts to dealers. Mann's Sporting Goods Company, 100 Genesee Street, Utica, N. Y.

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Send self-addressed stamped envelope for COMPLETE LIST

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Complete listing free on request.

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Walther P38 Rear Sights	2.00
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Walther PP & PPK New Barrels	9.50
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Luger Barrels, 4 in 9mm & 7.65mm	12.00
Luger Side Plates	6.50
Luger Side Plate Levers	2.00
Luger Side Plate Lever Pins	.75
Mauser H.S.C. .32 cal. Firing Pins	4.00
Mauser .32-.25 cal. mod. M10 Firing Pins	4.50
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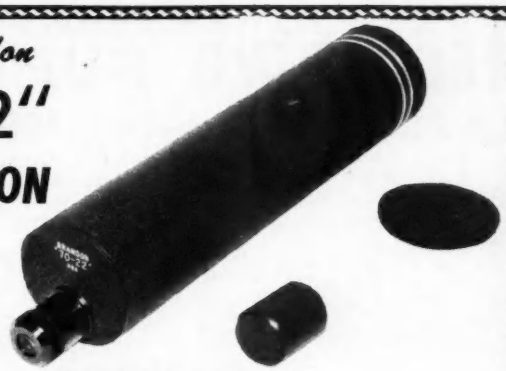

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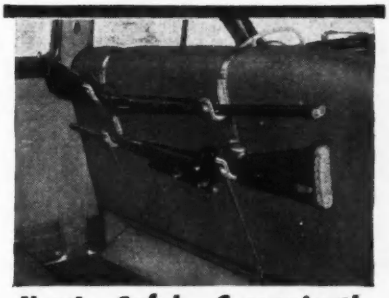

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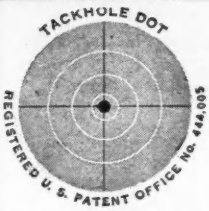

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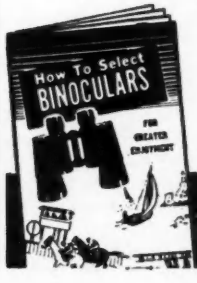

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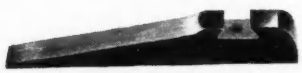

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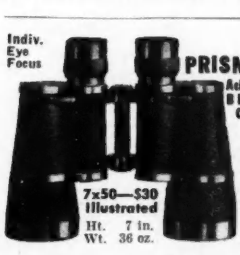

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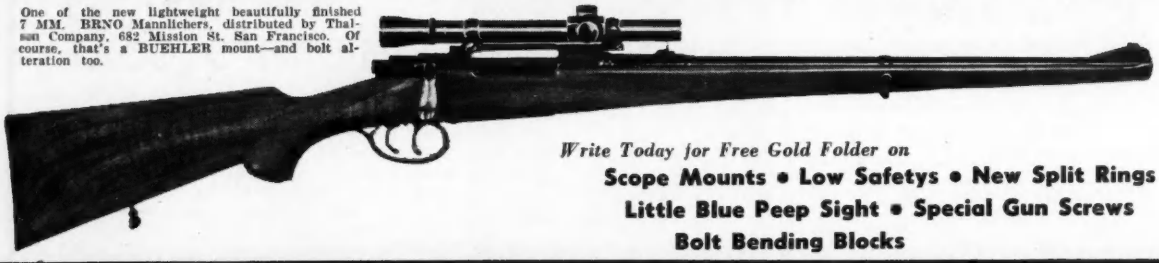

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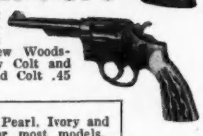

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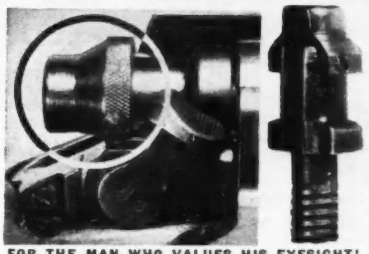

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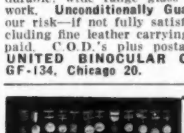

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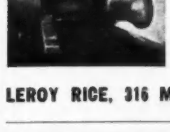

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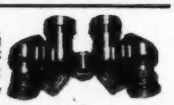

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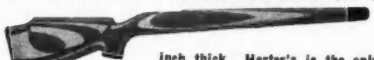
Laminated stocks were developed by the German army during World War II as an aid to accuracy. Since that time, many new checkerboard and mosaic patterns have been developed which have sacrificed accuracy for novelty. The Ordnance department of the German army proved that, in order to stop all warping in a laminated stock, the thickness of the laminations could not be over ⅛



inch thick. Herter's is the only firm in North America producing such laminated blanks for general distribution. These blanks contain two of the most stable woods known for rifle stocks. They are walnut and rock maple, indestructibly wedded together in ⅛ inch laminations. The woods are selected for grain to eliminate stress entirely and are fully dried to a moisture content of 7%. We unconditionally guarantee these laminated blanks and stocks to be the most stable available. They will hold a true zero without warping and make up into stocks of unusual beauty. Fittings and services available as on walnut stocks described at right. Precision inletted stocks $29.00 postpaid. Completely finished stocks $47.00 postpaid. Laminated stock blanks $16.85 not postpaid.

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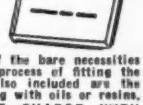

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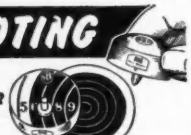

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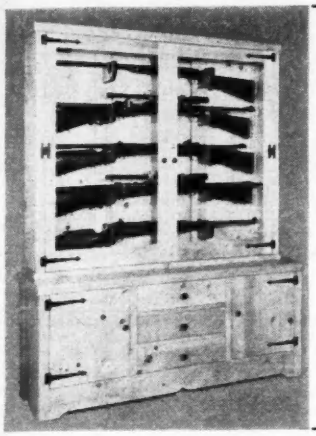

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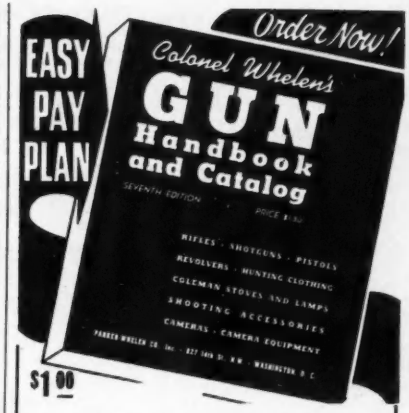

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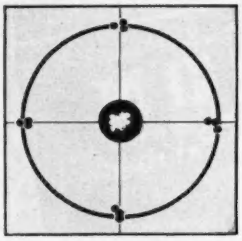

TARGET DONE WITH BEAR CUB 4X DOUBLE ON WIN. 52 25-Yard Range; Bench Rest

Sequence: 3 shots fired in center; 10 Min. elevation for 3 shots; 10 Min. down for 3 shots in center; 10 Min. down for 3 shots; 10 Min. up for 3 shots in center; 10 Min. right for 3 shots; 10 Min. left for 3 shots in center; 10 Min. left for 3 shots; 10 Min. right for 3 shots in center. (Total 15 shots in center.)

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	40 gr.	.223	.224	2.25
	45 gr.	.223	.224	2.25
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Lovell	41 gr.	.223	.224	2.25
	50 gr.	.223	.224 .226	2.50
Niedner	54 gr.	.223	.224	2.50
	62 gr.	.223	.224	2.50
Express	42 gr.	.223	.224	2.80
	49 gr.	.223	.224 .226	2.80
	55 gr.	.223	.224	2.80
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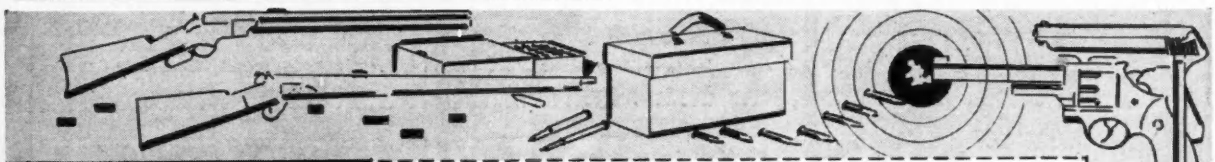

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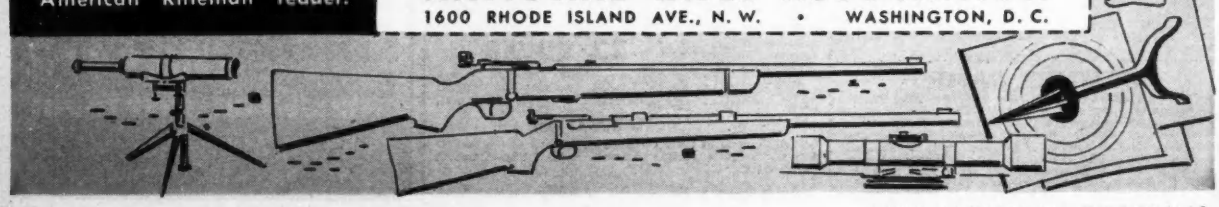

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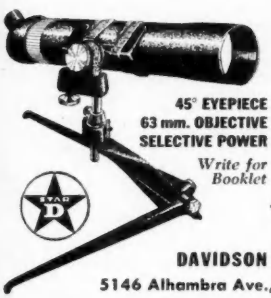

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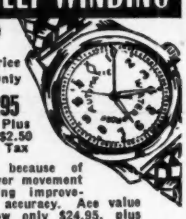

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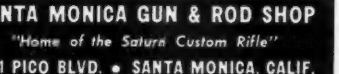

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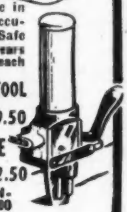

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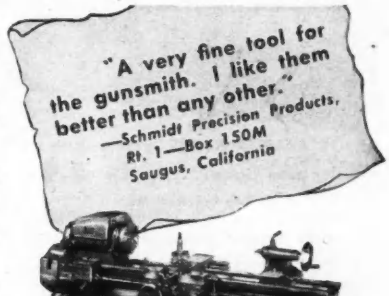
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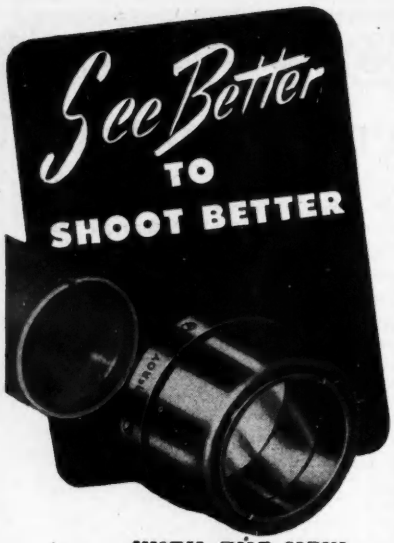

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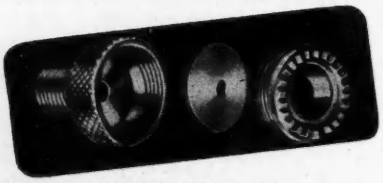

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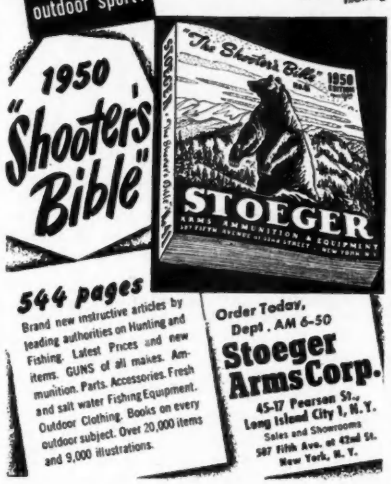
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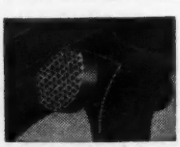

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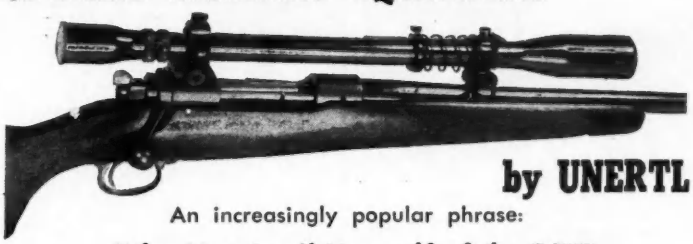

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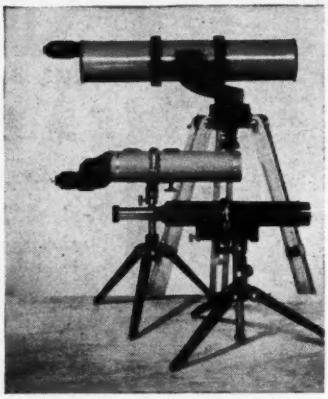

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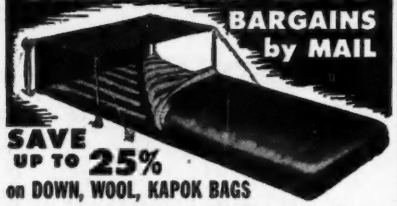

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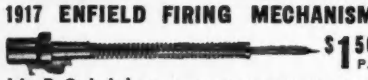

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6/48 SCREWS, HARDENED, BLUED, ASsorted lengths dozen 50¢, 100 net $2.75, 8/40 $3.25. Plug Screws 6/48, 8/40, 10/32, dozen 50¢, 100 $2.75. (No mixtures.) Universal Enfield trigger guard screws, 1¼" long, threaded 1⅜" 35¢—12 net $2.50. Springfield guard screws, short or long 35¢, 12 net $2.50. Mauser trigger guard screws complete set $1.50. $7.15 assortment of all screws $5.00. Buehler scope mounts—Smooth! Fast! and Low! Preferred by America's leading custom gunmakers. Mounts to fit 1", ⅞" and ¾" scopes in fifteen popular models, $15.00 retail. Split ring mounts 1" and 1.023" $20.00. Buehler safetys for Mauser, Springfield, M54, Krag $6.00 retail. See our display advertisement, page 72. Maynard Buehler, Orinda, California.

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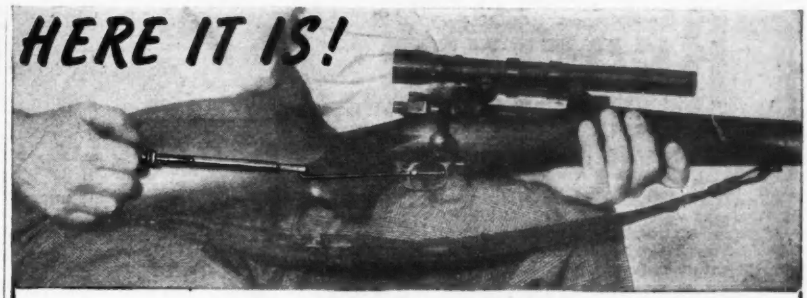

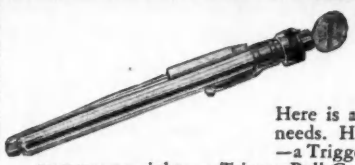

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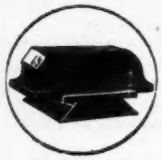

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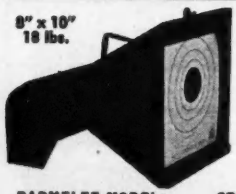

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TERMS EXPIRE 1950

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The Nominating Committee has the task of recommending to the members at their annual meeting a list of nominees from whom one third of the Board of Directors of the NRA may be elected.

To be properly representative of all the members of the Association the nominees must be considered with these factors in mind—

1 How many Directors are warranted by the membership and activity in each state or region?

2 How many Directors are already serving whose terms will continue for another year or two from each of those states or regions?

3 Is there a proper balance of Directors in each state or region, dependent on the relative importance there, of smallbore, pistol and .30 caliber activities?

4 Are the nominees men who can take the time to attend shoots, legislative meetings and the meetings of special committees to which they may be assigned?

Continued on page 96

SUGGESTION FOR NOMINATION OF DIRECTORS

THE DIRECTORS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Mr. J. A. Badeaux (Chairman), Thibodaux, Louisiana
Mr. Harry Reeves, 7664 Lamphere Street, Detroit, Michigan
Mr. Arthur Jackson, 346 Carlton Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.
Lt. Gail Bahr, 7015 East 5th Avenue, Denver 7, Colorado
Mr. George Whittington, 604 Amarillo Bldg., Amarillo, Texas
Captain Henry R. Jacobs, 27 Pershing Ave., Woodland, Calif.
Mrs. Alice H. Bull, 3403 St. Andrews Way, Seattle, Wash.

TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

I suggest the following named person for consideration to be placed in nomination as a candidate for election to the Board of Directors of the NRA for the term expiring in 1953.

1 ▶ Name of suggested Nominee ..... ☐ Endowment Member
Home Address ..... ☐ Life Member
City ..... Zone ..... State ..... ☐ Not known
If the person suggested is not now a member of the Board fill out the remainder of this form.

2 ▶ Occupation or profession ..... Approximate Age .....
Name of firm ..... Position .....

3 ▶ Give name of shooting organizations of which he is an active member. If present or past officer give title and dates. .....
.....
.....

4 ▶ Indicate phases of the shooting game in which he is actively interested.
☐ .30 caliber ☐ Smallbore ☐ Pistol ☐ Junior ☐ Official Referee

5 ▶ If he has held a position as a judicial or governmental official, give title and approximate dates
.....
.....

Continued on page 96

TERMS EXPIRE 1951

Dr. E. O. Swanson (Minnesota)
Mr. Harry D. Linn (Iowa)
Mr. Kinsey J. Voorhees (California)
Mr. J. J. Ring (Tennessee)
Colonel James F. Strain (DCM)
Mr. P. D. Andrews (New York)
Mr. Russell I. Wisler (California)
Mr. G. A. Brown (Florida)
Mr. L. W. Abrams (Florida)
Mr. Wilbur L. Withrow (Illinois)
Mr. W. Owen Keller (Kentucky)
Mr. P. H. Teschaut (Vermont)
Mr. George R. Whittington (Texas)
Mr. Stuart G. Edmonds (Oregon)
Mr. G. M. Styer (Washington)
Mr. O. R. Landet (Montana)
Mr. Clarke L. Wilson (Nebraska)
Mr. C. F. Sturbatzel (Pennsylvania)
Mr. James Affleck (Pennsylvania)
Mr. C. J. Cade (Pennsylvania)

TERMS EXPIRE 1952

Mr. J. Alvin Badeaux (Louisiana)
Mr. Ray T. Bayless (Ohio)
Mrs. Alice Bull (Washington)
Mr. G. E. Damon (Colorado)
Inspector Marvin Driver (Michigan)
Mr. Emile J. Dutil (California)
Mr. Malcolm B. Edwards (Washington)
Mr. Robert L. Kirk (Oregon)
Mr. A. L. Meloche (California)
Rear Admiral M. C. Mumma (Virginia)
Mr. Howard C. Johnson (Arizona)
Mr. Carl Kastner (New York)
Mr. Thomas D. Park (Texas)
Mr. Frank T. Parsons, Jr. (D. C.)
Mr. Robert Perkins (California)
Major General M. A. Reckord (Maryland)
Mr. John M. Schooley (Colorado)
Mr. Waldo E. Seagly (Indiana)
Lt. Col. Walter R. Walsh (USMC)
Mr. Irvine G. Porter (Alabama)

5 Are the nominees well and favorably known to the shooters in their area and are they physically and financially able to carry the extra burdens entailed by service as a Director?

Such questions cannot be answered on the spur of the moment. Careful study and unbiased consideration by a representative group of members must be given to the selection job. Every possible bit of helpful information must be given the nominators as to the persons under consideration and as to the activities in the various states.

Every member of the Association, particularly club officials, can be helpful in the effort to maintain an active, well-balanced Board of Directors. If you know a man or woman who meets the requirements send along your suggestion on the blank on the back of this page!

It is impracticable to publish the list of 17,000 Life Members, but the Nominating Committee will check the membership status of all persons suggested.

Check the list of all present Directors shown to the left. Those whose terms do not expire until 1951 and 1952 continue in office. Only those expiring in 1950 will be re-elected or replaced at the San Francisco Annual Meeting.

The Nominating Committee will meet on July 8 so that their choice of nominees can be published in the August Rifleman. So get your suggestions to the Secretary of the Association in Washington by July 7. Contact members of the Nominating Committee direct if you wish but do so prior to July 1 or your letter may not reach them before they leave home for the holidays, then on to Washington for the meeting.

NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION
1600 RHODE ISLAND AVE. WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

6 ▶ Is he well known and respected by shooters both within and beyond his local community ☐ Yes ☐ No

7 ▶ If he had held office in business, professional, civic, fraternal, boys work, police, or veterans organizations give title, organization and approximate dates .....
.....
.....

8 ▶ If elected will he give the time necessary to attend Board and Committee meetings and to take such trips in his region as may be requested by the NRA. Answer carefully ☐ Yes ☐ No

Name of member submitting suggestion .....
Address ..... ☐ Endowment ☐ Life ☐ Annual
City ..... Zone ..... State .....
If club official give name of organization and title. .....
.....
Name of member seconding suggestion. .....
Address ..... ☐ Endowment ☐ Life ☐ Annual
City ..... Zone ..... State .....
If club official give name of club and title.
.....

PICTURE OF PERSON RECOMMENDED AND ADDITIONAL DATA IN LETTER FORM WILL BE HELPFUL.

Mail to arrive in Washington by July 7, 1950. Additional forms will be furnished on request.

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ADDRESS .....

CITY ..... **STATE** .....

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